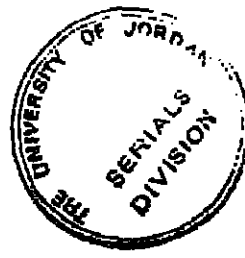


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### Israeli pacifist sees Arafat aide

TUNIS (R) — Israeli pacifist Abie Nathan met one of Yasser Arafat's closest colleagues at Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis Sunday as part of a campaign to elicit reassurances from the PLO for the Israeli public. Mr. Nathan, jailed last year for meeting Mr. Arafat, met the PLO chairman again on Saturday and said he expected to have another meeting with him on Sunday evening. Between the two Arafat meetings, he saw Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Maysa), a member of the Executive Committee of the PLO, to discuss 15 questions he wants Mr. Arafat to answer to overcome Israeli suspicions about the PLO. "I suggested the answers Mr. Arafat should give (to the 15 questions) and I think he will do it," Mr. Nathan told Reuters. On Saturday he said he would publish the answers internationally and in Israel "in order to give confidence and remove the fear and suspicion that we have."

# Jordan Times

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### Press seeks Cheney meeting on war

WASHINGTON (R) — The American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) Sunday urged Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to meet leaders of the newspaper and television industry to discuss their complaint that stifling restrictions were placed on Gulf war coverage. ANPA President Cathleen Black said in a letter to Mr. Cheney the military restrictions prevented the public from being informed about the hostilities in a timely manner. "We believe the time is right to address the problems and to ensure that the stifling restrictions imposed on the press in the Gulf are not repeated," Mr. Black wrote. A group of 17 leaders of the U.S. newspaper and television industry wrote to Mr. Cheney last week asking for a meeting on new coverage plans that would be used in the event of future hostilities involving U.S. troops. The private Gannett foundation has urged U.S. media to unite for wartime access to information and prevention of wartime censorship. Since the military supplied much of what was reported through briefings and videotapes and since television was the main source of Gulf war news for most Americans, "what Americans saw on their screens ... reflected the government's viewpoint," it said in a study released earlier this month.

## King: Jordan should set example of democracy

Masri government is a good team and will be successful in fulfilling its mandate

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has voiced confidence that Jordan would set an example of democracy and that the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri would succeed in its mandate as outlined in the royal letter of appointment given to the cabinet.

The King, in an interview with Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun, underlined the importance he attaches to the democratisation

process by reaffirming his belief that "this is the only way possible for the future, not only for the countries of the Middle East but anywhere else since it is the only way of ensuring stability and achieve progress."

"If you have institutions... power-sharing... democracy (and) freedom and if you were a part of a movement to seeking a better future then that is the best guarantee for a country looking

for stability and for the attainment of the great hopes," the King said.

Answering a question on the new government, the King said: "I believe that he (Mr. Masri) is relatively a young prime minister who has had a lot of experience and I believe that he has a good team with him and it was exactly what the future outline of policies should be. I certainly included that in the message to the prime

minister and beyond that the important thing that we should retain the best we can retain from our past and our tradition and what we can offer to the rest of the world."

"And I believe that is the challenge before us," the King added. "... People, regardless of their origins... we must work, we must put our minds together, must put our hearts together, once and for all... we should

make of this country an example. I hope that every member of the choice of this prime minister would work together with his team, with democracy, and with all our support and that we succeed."

There is no other alternative, "except disaster, to the establishment of a just and durable peace in this region," the King said answering a question on the peace process. "We have to

assume that every effort would be made to ensure that this purpose is reached, probably soon."

But, he said, there was nothing new in the peace process although contacts were continuing.

The King reaffirmed Jordan's well-known positions calling for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and emphasised the role of the Palestine Liberation Orga-

nisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"We would like to have the rest of the world to be with us to have this process leading to peace," he said. "We would like the moral weight of the world with us. We would like, certainly, if it is not under United Nations auspices, in terms that the United Nations being involved, that we have many events that will end up with

the guarantees of the Security Council which are explicit in 242 and 338."

Asked how he viewed an Israeli "invitation to visit Israel," the King said: "I don't believe that it is a question of individual theatrical

(Continued on page 5)

(See page 4 for full text of the King's comment)

## U.N. troubleshooters arrive in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Three senior U.N. troubleshooters arrived in Baghdad Sunday and went straight into talks with an inspector investigating whether Iraq is concealing evidence of a secret nuclear weapons programme.

"We are here to discuss the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution," Hans Blix, head of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told reporters.

The U.N. Security Council decided in an emergency session on Friday to send the team to Baghdad to ask Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for assurances that

the United Nations would have full access to suspected nuclear material and equipment.

Shortly after they arrived at their Baghdad hotel, the three were joined by David Kay, chief inspector of the U.N. team at the centre of the row over access.

Under-Secretary General Yasushi Akashi of Japan, head of the U.N. Department of Disarmament Affairs and a member of three-man group, told reporters they had meetings planned with Iraq's prime minister and foreign minister.

He said it was not clear whether they would meet President Saddam.

The third member of the team is Rolf Ekeus, Swedish director of the U.N. Special Commission set up under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire to scarp Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The Security Council met after incidents which suggested Iraq might be trying to hide some of its nuclear capabilities.

On three occasions Iraqi soldiers allegedly refused to let Mr. Kay's team visit military bases. Soldiers later fired in the air when members of the team photographed a convoy they believed carried equipment for making weapons-grade enriched uranium.

President Saddam on Friday ordered Iraqi officials to cooperate fully with all U.N. inspection teams but U.S. President George Bush brushed aside the assurance, saying "we've heard that before."

The United States has hinted it might resort to air strikes against suspected Iraqi nuclear installations if it is not satisfied that the United Nations has found them all.

The U.N. Security Council told Iraq to give the inspectors access to the equipment in the convoy and warned that "any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences."

## Masri: Security vital for democracy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri said Sunday that security and stability provide an incentive for Jordanian citizens to contribute effectively to enhancing productivity and developing the national economy.

Mr. Masri, who was speaking during a visit to the Public Security Department (PSD), said that security and stability "are as important to citizens as bread and water."

He noted that the work of the PSD complements the work done by the other institutions to enable Jordan's democratic experiment to thrive and to ensure political openness.

Mr. Masri said the government (Continued on page 5)

## France to seek U.N.-sponsored conference if U.S. efforts fail

Dumas pays 1-day visit for high-level talks

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said Sunday that France was ready to press for a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference if the U.S.-led peace efforts failed to bring about results.

Mr. Dumas ended a one-day working visit to the Kingdom by saying that Jordan and France saw eye-to-eye on the need to explore an alternative peace process if the U.S.-led efforts collapse.

An official invitation to visit Paris from French President Francois Mitterrand was delivered to His Majesty King Hussein by Mr. Dumas during a meeting Sunday at noon shortly after which the French foreign minister concluded his visit, the Jordan Press Agency, Petra, reported.

France, Mr. Dumas told a press conference before he left, will use its seat on the U.N. Security Council to



revive a recent proposal by President Mitterrand which called for a meeting of the Security Council members to arrange for a tangible Arab-Israeli peace conference. After holding talks with His Majesty (Continued on page 5)



Abdul Rahim Ahmad

## PLO leader Abdul Rahim Ahmad dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — A member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, Abdul Rahim Ahmad of the Arab Liberation Front (ALF), died in Amman early Sunday.

Mr. Ahmad, 47, who ran the Amman-based popular organisations department of the PLO, had been ill with cancer.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was receiving condolences in Tunis Sunday, the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported.

Mr. Ahmad had been in frail health since the discovery of malignant tumours in his brain and lungs two years ago.

Early Sunday morning, he complained that he "felt very sick and then collapsed dead on the floor of his bedroom before we had a chance to take him to

## Two more killed in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — At least two people were killed and three wounded in clashes between police and Muslim fundamentalists in Algiers Sunday, eyewitnesses said.

They said two youths were shot dead in the suburb of Belcourt during the morning.

Muslim activists carried their bodies, wrapped in sheets, to the central Ben Khaldoun Mosque in the early afternoon. They were later driven to a morgue, accompanied by a doctor.

The marchers chanted "Allahu Akbar" in defiance of a state of siege enforced by the security forces.

Heavy gunfire shook the Algerian capital overnight and police fired warning shots in Belcourt in the morning to hold back fun-

damentalists taunting them with insults.

Witnesses named one of the dead as Mohammed Hajjam, 24.

One wounded youth, hit in the shoulder, was taken to hospital. The others were treated in the mosque, where the fundamentalists had supplies of medical equipment, the witnesses said.

The military, in its first account of the events of the last 24 hours, said youths had defied an 11 p.m. to 3.30 a.m. curfew, thrown up barricades and thrown stones at troops.

The army replied with warning shots, a communique added.

Two people were shot in the leg for refusing to obey the curfew and one person was stabbed by unknown people, it said. It did not say what condition he was in.

## Tanks move into central Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Tank reinforcements moved into central Algiers Sunday evening and sources close to Algeria's main Islamic opposition party said its two top leaders had been arrested.

About 100 armed troops surrounded the headquarters of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), witnesses said.

The Algerian news agency APS said on Sunday it had received a communique from a hitherto unknown group threatening acts of

(Continued on page 5)  
New cracks in FIS, page 2

## Yugoslavia slides towards chaos

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (R) — Slovenia rejected Yugoslav terms for a ceasefire on Sunday and warplanes screamed low over the rebel republic as Yugoslavia slid closer towards civil war.

As air raid sirens wailed over Slovenia, the Yugoslav government, the European Community (EC) and Austria launched last-minute bids to stop the Balkan Federation breaking up in bloodshed.

The EC told Yugoslavia's prime minister it would freeze all aid unless he agreed a prompt ceasefire.

"In the absence of a ceasefire and the Yugoslav national army's return to barracks I will recommend in the next few hours that all community and member state aid to Yugoslavia be frozen im-

mediately," Luxembourg's foreign minister wrote to Ante Markovic in the name of the EC.

"I would be grateful if you would confirm your commitment publicly without delay."

Luxembourg's Jacques Poos sent Mr. Markovic copies of similar letters sent to the presidents of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.

Mr. Poos reminded all four leaders of the peace plan they had agreed to implement during talks with EC foreign ministers who flew to Belgrade and the Croatian capital Zagreb Friday night.

The EC also said it was sending a three-man peace mission to Yugoslavia for the second time in three days and Prime Minister Markovic flew from Belgrade to Ljubljana and held talks with Slovenia's secessionist President

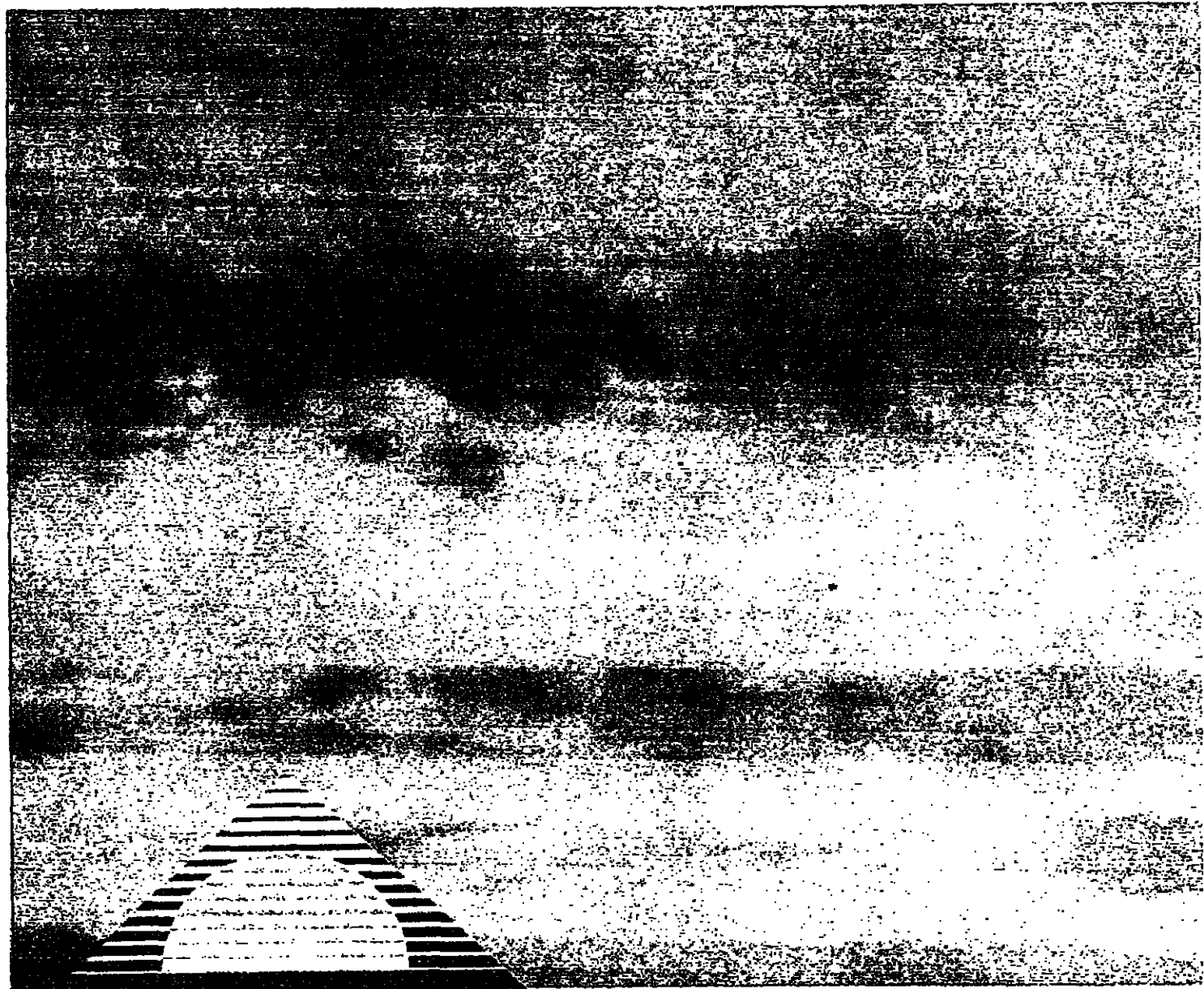
Milan Kucan.

Mr. Markovic, a Croat who has struggled to hold the country together, was seeking to avert "a catastrophe and total civil, inter-ethnic war," a government statement said.

Austria called for an emergency meeting within three days of the 35-nation Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to discuss the crisis.

In Slovenia's capital of Ljubljana, people dived for cover as air raid sirens wailed and an unofficial deadline for the republic to halt its independence drive expired.

The planes did not attack, despite an army threat on Saturday to take "decisive military action" against Slovenia.



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## Brotherhood pledges not to allow differences with new government to disrupt democracy

Azaideh says rift over peace negotiations, not cabinet portfolios, was obstacle to joining Masri's cabinet

By Lami K. Andoni  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood Movement said Sunday that it would not allow any potential political differences with the cabinet of Prime Minister Taher Masri over the peace process to lead to a confrontation that might disrupt the democratic process.

"No political differences (with the cabinet) will weaken our support for the democratic process which we are ready to defend with our lives," said Brotherhood spokesman Ahmad Qataish Al Azaideh in an interview with the Jordan Times.

"We have no desire (in seeing) our differences (over the peace

process) evolve into a confrontation with the government," he asserted.

But Mr. Azaideh implicitly warned that any attempts to tamper with democracy to prevent the Islamists from ascendancy might provoke a violent reaction by some Islamists similar to what happened in Algeria. "We are sure that the decision-makers here are very wise and will not allow such a thing to happen," he said.

Mr. Azaideh implied that attempts to curtail the Movement's influence by containing democracy in the country might result in the emergence of extremist groups which advocate violence.

Earlier on Sunday the Arabic

dailies had run a brief clarification by the Brotherhood, signed by Mr. Azaideh, in response to Mr. Masri's press interview published Saturday which implied that the Movement had declined to join the Cabinet when they were not offered the education portfolio.

The Brotherhood statement stressed that its decision not to join the cabinet was out of concern that Mr. Masri's appointment would pave the way for negotiations with Israel.

In his interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Azaideh conceded that Mr. Masri offered the movement five ministries which did not include the education

(Continued on page 5)



Ahmad Qataish Al Azaideh



## Stateless Arabs flee Kuwait for Iraq

ADALII, Kuwait (R) — Hundreds of stateless Arabs are fleeing to Iraq, preferring to live in Iraq rather than stay in Kuwait.

"I am frightened of Iraq but less than I fear Kuwait," said Abu Mohammad, one of thousands of stateless Arabs (bedoun) stranded at the Abdali Camp on the Iraq-Kuwait border at the end of the Gulf war.

"I will try to ask the Red Crescent in Baghdad for help. In Kuwait perhaps they kill me," he said as he packed his belongings.

The League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the international organisation which runs the camp, said on Sunday the population of Abdali dropped from 2,972 to 1,732 in the six days up to June 26.

A month earlier there were more than 4,400 people in the camp, a squalid, windswept colony of tents bled by the desert sun and ringed by uncleared mine fields laid during the war.

"The numbers have levelled off since June 26 but we are still losing 20 to 30 a day," said league official Daniel Prewitt.

Abdali Camp was set up because bedoun stranded in Iraq during the war were refused re-entry to Kuwait.

Iraqi traders who supply the camp with vegetables from across the border many of those who have left are being held in a detention centre in Safwan, southern Iraq.

The bedoun says they have been systematically barred from returning to their jobs in Kuwait, which before the Gulf crisis employed thousands of them in the police and armed forces.

Originally Arabian desert nomads, some bedoun have lived in Kuwait for generations. Their numbers are estimated at between 150,000 and 200,000. There are no reliable figures because they have been refused citizenship under the emirate's strict nationality laws.

Camp inmates, many of whom produce Kuwaiti police or army identification cards, say they have no access to their families, their houses, their bank accounts.

"What is the crime that the bedoun have committed? What about our rights? How are our families supposed to survive if there is no house, no work?" asked Ali Mohammad.

Many fear for their lives because they were drafted into the Iraqi Popular Army during the seven-month occupation.

"They have followed Kuwait's 'collaboration' trials with horror. Twenty-nine people, some of them bedoun, were sentenced to death by a martial law court. The sentences were commuted to life imprisonment with the lifting of martial law on Wednesday.

Western officials say the Abdali inmates have lost hope of being allowed to return to their former way of life. But by leaving for Iraq they might only reinforce the belief of many Kuwaitis that they are sympathetic to Iraq.

## Soviets rush to Israel to beat passport law

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — More than 20,000 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel in June, many rushing to beat a Soviet law requiring them to obtain passports before leaving.

Yehuda Weinraub, spokesman for the semi-official Jewish Agency handling immigration, said 20,856 were expected to have arrived by midnight on Sunday, bringing total Soviet Jewish immigrants to 87,051 in the first six months of the year.

The June figure is the highest monthly total since last December's record 35,295. In May, 16,048 arrived.

From Monday Soviet Jews, previously able to travel to Israel on exit visas, will need passports to leave along with other citizens.

Some 5,000 arrived in the 48-hour period ending Saturday night.

"Many of the people don't trust the Soviet bureaucracy," Mr. Weinraub told Reuters.

"They're not so sure that they will be able to get their passports within 24 hours or whether they'll get stuck in a long line with all types of denominations who want to get out."

But he said some would-be immigrants had delayed their move so they could obtain passports, enabling them to return to the Soviet Union if they failed to find jobs or homes.

About 100,000 Soviet Jews hold exit visas that will be invalid once the law takes effect. Israeli officials expect fewer arrivals in the next two months.

Soviet immigration is below the levels of the late last year because of the Gulf war.

Officials expect fewer than 200,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants this year but a million by the mid-1990s.

Simha Dinitz, the head of the Jewish Agency, said he saw no "sign of panic but a sign of daily growing pressure," among the Soviet Jews.

"We definitely see a significantly accelerated pace which reminds us of the heyday of immigration at the end of last year."

Since the Soviet Union adopted more liberal exit policies for Jews in mid-1989, more than 265,000 Soviets have moved to Israel in the largest immigration in four decades.

The influx has aggravated Israel's high unemployment and led to a housing shortage. Ariel Levine, Israel's consul to Moscow, warned that Israel must solve these problems if it wants immigration to continue.

Israel also faces a possible conflict with the United States over a \$10 billion loan guarantee it has requested to help house the Soviet influx. Reports say the United States may link the aid to Israel's halting construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who spearheads the settlement construction, said the United States must understand that immigration is a "humanitarian" issue not to be tied to forcing Israel into any political concessions.

But Mr. Dinitz told Israel Radio "clear cut priorities must be set" the top priority being the "ingathering of Soviet and Ethiopian Jews."

"That means that everything else regardless of political ideology must take a secondary place. I think it is not wise to carry these two flags at the same time, especially when they are inconsistent in the eyes of others and in the eyes of many Israelis," he added.

## Tehran presses quest for greater role in Gulf

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has announced that he would meet soon with his Saudi and Syrian counterparts, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Mr. Velayati did not give details on the proposed meeting, but it is expected to focus on Tehran's efforts to forge a new security alliance in the Gulf.

IRNA quoted Mr. Velayati as telling a news conference in Tehran that Iran was moving towards greater cooperation with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in joint economic and security activities.

"We have taken positive and important steps in this direction, including the resumption of relations with Saudi Arabia," he said.

"We are optimistic about future cooperation among the seven countries of the region."

Tehran and Riyadh resumed diplomatic ties last March after a three-year break. Mr. Velayati said Friday that ambassadors would be exchanged soon.

Mr. Velayati said that Iran's cooperation with the GCC would be "mutually beneficial."

The Gulf countries have been willing to grant Tehran a wider political role in the region but are wary of giving it any military role.

The GCC foreign ministers signed a security agreement in Damascus shortly after the Gulf war. It calls for Syria and Egypt to provide the core of a permanent Gulf security force.

Iran objected to its exclusion from the agreement and said it would seek its own separate pact with the GCC.

Mr. Velayati stressed that it GCC countries, not Iran, need the pact.

He suggested that including Egypt was "like Iran wanting to ensure the security of the Suez Canal." But he did not criticise Syria, Tehran's closest Arab ally, for joining the accord.

Mr. Velayati indicated, however, that Tehran's relations with Cairo had improved.

"The situation of our relations with Egypt has become better than in the past, and the creation of interest sections of the two countries is a positive step in these relations," he said.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Muhammad Ali Besharati said in an interview published last Tuesday neither Syria nor Egypt had any military role in the Gulf because Syria was bogged down in Lebanon and Egypt was weighed down by economic problems.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa responded by saying no security arrangement in the Middle East could be implemented without an Egyptian role because Egypt was the largest and most influential country in the region.

Saturday's Tehran Times said Iran had no objection to the planned Gulf Arab peacekeeping force, "if it is meant to guarantee the safety of land frontiers in some Arab countries."

But it added: "Egypt's anxiety to have a role in the Persian Gulf security arrangement would be like Iran wanting to ensure the security of the Suez Canal."

Mr. Velayati also said Iran was ready to receive an Iraqi delegation to discuss differences between the two countries.

## New split in Algeria's fundamentalist opposition

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's main fundamentalist opposition, which has plunged the country into violence, was hit by a fresh split when a senior official attacked the leadership of Abassi Madani.

Sheikh Mohammad Iman, a member of the policy-making body of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), accused Mr. Madani on Algerian Television on Saturday of creating a "personality cult" and ignoring his top advisers.

Sheikh Iman urged FIS members not to follow a personality cult and he criticised a threat by Mr. Madani, made to 20,000 hardline supporters on Friday, to call a jihad (holy war) if the army did not leave the streets and the state of siege lifted.

Such a jihad, Sheikh Iman said, would be soiled by those who seek "fratricide and war."

He said he had opposed last month's political strike called by Mr. Madani because he knew it would bring out the army.

The strike hardened into a violent protest calling for an Islamic state. Officials say 42 people have been killed in the violence this month. Diplomats put the figure at nearer 70.

On June 5, President Chadli Benjedid imposed a state of siege, replaced the government and cancelled general elections due to be held last Thursday.

The new government is due to present its programme committed to preparing for general elections later this year, to parliament on Monday.

Three other members of FIS's policy-making body — the Majlis Eshoura — have also criticised Mr. Madani. One of them, Fakir Bashir, said on television on Saturday that Mr. Madani was "a danger to Islam."

The FIS expelled two of the trio but pardoned the most influential, Hachemi Sahnouni, saying he had been misled.

Tehran supports rebellion

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said Saturday that the unrest in Algeria was drawing its inspiration from the Iranian revolution.

Speaking at a gathering in Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei said that Iran had taught other nations how to struggle against pro-Western governments.

He said that Algerian Muslims had taken to their rooftops to chant "Allahu Akbar" just as Iranian revolutionaries had done during the 1979 revolution to topple the Shah.

The Algerian people going to the rooftops and shouting "Allahu Akbar" exemplify their learning from the Iranian people," the radio quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying.

Commenting on the Algerian situation, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a news conference in Tehran that Iran would like to see an Islamic government come to power in Algeria.

As an Islamic country we hope that Islam will rule in Algeria," the radio quoted him as saying.

But he stressed that "this does not mean interference in the internal affairs" of Algeria.

"We hope the democratisation of Algeria will take place peacefully, without the need for violence," Mr. Velayati said, implying that democracy would automatically come to Algeria with Islamic rule.

Iran has been particularly interested in Muslims in Algeria and nearby Tunisia, another hotbed of fundamentalist Islam, where it has felt its Islamic fervour can be exported.

## Gulf war oil slick devastates marine life

BAHRAIN (R) — Black tides have coated beaches for hundreds of miles in the Gulf and crude oil is still trickling south four months after the Gulf war ended.

About 150 miles of Saudi Arabia's northeastern coastline is smothered with thick heavy crude which flowed from Kuwait and Iraqi oil terminals during the six-week Gulf war.

The northwestern coast of Iran's Bushehr province, about 150 miles east of Kuwait, has also been badly hit.

Fishing industries on both sides of the Gulf have been devastated and shallow breeding grounds for fish, shrimp and other marine life were destroyed. Thousands of sea birds have died.

Industrial, power and water plants along both the Saudi and Iranian coasts have so far escaped virtually unscathed and — to the surprise of most experts — the blanket of crude has so far not reached the central Gulf.

"The oil slick devastated beaches in the northern part of the kingdom, but industry was not impacted — the main loser is the environment," a spokesman at the Saudi Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) said.

The U.S.-led coalition which fought Iraqi forces in the war accused Baghdad of deliberately releasing crude from its own tankers and Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi oil terminal. Iraq blamed allied bombing raids.

A war-time pollution estimate of 11 million barrels of oil has been scaled down to between six and eight million barrels, MEPA officials say.

But that amount would probably still far surpass the worst spill recorded in 1979 in the Gulf of Mexico.

The MEPA spokesman said Saudi Arabia's Abu Ali islands north of Jubail port acted as a natural barrier and prevented the main body of the slick, which was drifting south with prevailing currents, from travelling further down the Gulf.

Jubail is also the site of the kingdom's main industrial complex, refinery, and desalination plant — which were all threatened by the slick.

Oil still trickles from damaged Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil terminals at the rate of 500-600 barrels per day, MEPA says.

But experts say about 40 per cent of the crude, kept afloat by the high salinity of the Gulf, evaporates within six hours of being discharged.

Since March, between 1.4 and 1.7 million barrels of oil have been siphoned off by Saudi and international experts rushed in to try to limit the disaster on the Gulf's west coast, the MEPA spokesman said.

Other oil was washed ashore or sank to the sea-bottom, where it is now mixing with sand to form tar balls.

Tar balls still threaten water intake channels at industrial facilities and desalination plants which provide up to two thirds of Saudi Arabia's drinking water.

Nets are in place at endangered industrial areas to reinforce layers of floating booms which protect against oil on the surface.

The recovered oil, stored in giant pits near the coast, will be taken to Saudi refineries for reprocessing.

MEPA is gearing up for a massive beach clean up in about two months time, but it has not yet decided what methods to use.

## Iraqi paper blames bureaucracy for nuclear dispute

BAGHDAD (R) — A newspaper run by President Saddam Hussein's elder son on Sunday blamed Iraq's "chaotic" administration for stopping a U.N. nuclear team from inspecting military sites.

In one of several signs that Iraq wanted to defuse the row, which has sparked hints of possible U.S. military action, Babil newspaper attacked the officials it said were responsible for the delays.

"How much longer will our administration continue to act in such a chaotic way? Such a reaction can do a lot of harm to both the people and the country and help our enemy carry out its conspiracy," Babil said in a commentary.

The article was signed Abu Sirhan, a pen name used by Uday, President Saddam's 27-year-old son.

A three-man mission from the U.N. Security Council left Bahrain for Baghdad Sunday in a special U.N. plane to demand assurances of cooperation in future.

The Security Council has ordered Iraq to grant its inspectors immediate access to the equipment, warning that "any recurrence of non-compliance would have serious consequences."

Other Iraqi newspapers charged that U.S. talk of a secret Iraqi nuclear weapons programme was part of a plot to block the lifting of a United Nations economic embargo.

The army newspaper Al Qadisiya said Baghdad was doing its bit to implement the U.N. ceasefire resolution which holds the key to an eventual lifting of sanctions.

"Iraq has always cooperated with the U.N. representatives to implement the Security Council ceasefire resolutions," it said.

Al Thawra, newspaper of the ruling Baath Party, said the "false accusations" were a way of delaying the lifting of the embargo and economic sanctions.

"Once again the American administration is proving... that it wants to stop the development of Iraq and it is still insisting on continuing the inhuman ways of making the Iraqi people hungry and poor."

President Saddam Friday ordered full cooperation with all U.N. inspection teams after soldiers refused the inspectors access to one site near Fallujah earlier that day. The inspectors, say soldiers fired in the air as they photographed a convoy which they suspected held equipment for making weapons-grade enriched uranium.

Earlier in the week Iraq kept the same team waiting three days before letting it inspect a suspected nuclear site on the Abu Ghraib military complex west of Baghdad. Inspectors say they believe material was moved from Abu Ghraib to Fallujah.

Iraqi officials said they had been unable to secure the necessary permission because government departments were closed for the four-day Eid Al Adha holiday.

Under the terms of the ceasefire resolution, Iraq must provide details of its chemical, biological, ballistic and nuclear weapons so material can be removed or destroyed.

Another team of U.N. experts has meanwhile arrived in Baghdad to assess humanitarian needs and the impact of sanctions.

"It will be a two-week exercise," said Bert Bernander, coordinator of the U.N. humanitarian operation in Iraq.

## Egypt wants Israel to follow S. Africa on nuclear pact

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has welcomed South Africa's decision to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and hoped Israel would soon follow suit.

"This step strengthens the effectiveness of the treaty which grows stronger as more countries, particularly those with nuclear programmes, join it," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters Sunday.

"I hope all states neighbouring Egypt in the African continent and the Middle East will join this treaty especially those that have nuclear facilities which do not undergo inspection like Israel," Mr. Musa added.

Israel will neither confirm or deny it has nuclear weapons, but Western military sources have said it has at least 100 nuclear warheads and missiles to deliver them.

The only other country in the region with a nuclear programme is Iraq which following the Gulf war is under U.N. orders to disclose details of and destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

U.N. trouble-shooters were flying to Baghdad Sunday with an ultimatum — hand over nuclear equipment for inspection or risk possible U.S. military action.

South Africa announced on Thursday it would sign the treaty and allow inspection of its facilities. It said although it had the capacity to make nuclear weapons, it no longer needed them following the decline of superpower rivalry there.

Anti-apartheid campaigners have alleged South Africa and Israel cooperated on nuclear research and that Pretoria had a nuclear weapons programme since the mid-1970s.

Egypt and other Arab states have said if a proposal by U.S. President George Bush to reduce Middle East arms were to have any chance of success, Israel's huge arsenal including its nuclear weapons would have to be included.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

**Sudanese prison to be demolished**

KHARTOUM (AP) — Omar Hassan Al Bashir said Saturday he will demolish the country's largest prison as a symbolic gesture to human rights. He announced in a nationally-televised speech that the event will take in this capital city on Monday as part of celebrations marking the second anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, or the junta that brought him to power two years ago in a military coup. Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, who is currently in Khartoum to attend the celebrations, will witness the act, Lieutenant-General Bashir said. In a related move, he also issued an amnesty for 1,300 prisoners. The amnesty covered prisoners who had served three quarters of their terms, those over 70 years old and juveniles. The Kober prison dates back to the British colonial rule and is well known as a centre for detaining political dissidents.

**Group threatens to destroy Baalbek temples**

BEIRUT (AP) — An Islamic fundamentalist group was quoted Saturday as saying it would destroy the ancient Roman temple complex at Baalbek in eastern Lebanon to prevent it being used as a place of debauchery. The threat was in a statement issued by the pro-Iranian Islamic Cultural Centre (ICC) and published by L'Orient le Jour, the independent French-language newspaper in Beirut. The ICC said it would blow up the temples "if they are once more transformed, as on the recent day of peace, into a market where women's flesh is exposed and obscene propositions are exchanged." It added: "If peace means debauchery and juvenile delinquency, this day will never come." It was an apparent reference to a June 9 rally, organised by Tourism Minister Talal Arisan, to mark Lebanon's return to relative peace after more than 15 years of civil war. The rally in Baalbek attracted more than 20,000 young people from all over Lebanon. The ICC is a Shi'ite Muslim group fiercely attached to Islamic tenets. Militiamen from the Iranian backed Shi'ite Muslim Hizbollah are trained at the camp near Baalbek by an estimated 2,000 Iranian Revolutionary guards permanently stationed there. The temples in the eastern Bekaa Valley were dedicated to the Roman deities Jupiter, Venus and Bacchus — the gods of thunder, love and wine. The massive ruins were a major tourist attraction before the civil war.

**Iran calls on Bonn to explain decision**

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian government on Saturday demanded an official explanation from Bonn for blocking a German firm from completing a nuclear power plant in southern Iran. A statement issued by Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation said the government "cannot remain indifferent toward the unjust decision of the German government for not issuing permission to resume construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. Bushehr is a port city on the Gulf in southern Iran. The statement added that Iran "expected the German government to make an official statement in this connection." Iran's displeasure could taint a visit by German Economics Minister Juergen Moelleman, who arrived in Tehran Saturday with a delegation of 110 businessmen seeking contracts in Iran. Iranian Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh, who welcomed Moelleman at the airport, told reporters that economic and trade relations with Germany could expand "with the removal of some obstacles." The Iranian news agency IRNA reported. It did not elaborate. IRNA said Mr. Moelleman's visit was aimed at convincing Iranian authorities to give up the idea of a nuclear power plant and, instead, accept German technology for conventional power plants. Siemens signed a contract to build the nuclear plant in 1975, but later abandoned it amid the 1979 Islamic revolution and the 1980-88 Gulf war. The AEO said that Germany had promised to allow resumption of work on the plant after hostilities ended, but that no permit had been issued.

**Egyptair flies to Lebanon after 10 years**

BEIRUT (R) — Egyptair, which pulled out of Lebanon more than 10 years ago, resumed flights to Beirut on Saturday. Egypt's national carrier is the 11th foreign airline to return to Beirut since the Lebanese army re-entered the capital last December after 16 years of civil war. Air France last week became the first Western airline to resume flights.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 73111-19	
18:00	Les Dames du President
19:00	News in French
19:30	Weekly Sports Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Empty Nest
21:10	Nancy Wake
22:00	News in English
22:20	Murder in Texas
PRAYER TIMES	
05:52	Fajr
05:57	(Sunrise) Doha
12:30	Dhuhr
16:19	'Asr
19:50	Maghreb
20:25	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 773331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623654, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate freshening at times. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Ammann	Min./max. temp. 18 / 30
Aqaba	24 / 37
Deserts	20 / 35
Jordan Valley	22 / 36

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Aqaba 28 per cent.	Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 965417	Water Authority ..... 680100	URGENT: Princess Basma Hospital .. (02)273555
<b>USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES</b>	Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615	Princess Catharine Hospital .. (02)272775
Food Control Centre ..... 637111	Police ..... 112, 621111, 637777	Electric Power Company ..... 636381	St. Michael's Hospital ..... (02)247100
Civil Defence Department ..... 661111	Fire Brigade ..... 891228	RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	<b>FOR THE TRAVELLER</b>
Removals ..... 630341	Blood Bank ..... 775121	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	<b>QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT</b>
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 630341	Highway Police ..... 843402	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (00)93205, where it should always be verified.
Public Security Department ..... 630321	Public Security Department ..... 630321	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	<b>ARRIVALS</b>
Hotel Complaints ..... 665900	Hotel Complaints ..... 665900	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	<b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)</b>
Price Complaints ..... 661176	Price Complaints ..... 661176	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	10:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)
Waste and Sewerage ..... 897467	Waste and Sewerage ..... 897467	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	10:15 ..... Jeddah, Saudi (RJ)
Amman Municipality ..... 787111	Amman Municipality ..... 787111	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	10:30 ..... Montreal, New York (RJ)
Complaints ..... 897467	Complaints ..... 897467	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	10:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)
Repairs ..... 623101	Repairs ..... 623101	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	11:00 ..... London (RJ)
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101	Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	11:15 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)
Jordan Television ..... 731111	Jordan Television ..... 731111	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	11:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)
Radio Jordan ..... 774111	Radio Jordan ..... 774111	QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	11:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	12:00 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	12:15 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	12:30 ..... Dubai, Moscow (RJ)
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	12:45 ..... Suez
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	13:00 ..... Sweet melon
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	13:15 ..... Tomatoes
		QJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200	13:30 ..... Watermelon

10:45 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	14:15 ..... Cairo (MS)
11:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)	15:15 ..... Bahrain (GF)
12:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)	15:30 ..... Paris (AF)
12:30 ..... Bangkok (RJ)	
12:45 ..... Istanbul (GF)	
13:00 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	
01:15 ..... Moscow (RJ)	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg	
Apples	500 / 450
Bananas	500 / 450
Beans (Mekemsa)	450 / 400
Beans	450 / 400
Cabbages	100 / 70
Carrots	220 / 160
Cauliflowers	220 / 230
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 80
Cucumbers (small)	220 / 160
Eggplants	200 / 150
Garlic	800 / 700
Lentils	220 / 260
Lettuces (per one)	150 / 100
Marrow (large)	100 / 50
Marrow (small)	200 / 150
Onions (dry)	180 / 120
Oranges	350 / 200
Pepper (hot)	200 / 150
Pepper (sweet)	250 / 200
Potatoes	320 / 260
Radishes	120 / 100
Sage	200 / 150
Sweet melon	200 / 120
Tomatoes	200 / 150
Watermelon	180 / 70
Other Carriers (Terminal 2)	
13:30 ..... Cairo (MS)	
14:00 ..... Bahrain (GF)	
22:00 ..... Paris (AF)	
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)	
11:00 ..... Jeddah (add) (RJ)	
12:30 ..... Montreal, New York (RJ)	
12:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)	
13:15 ..... London (RJ)	
13:30 ..... Frankfurt (RJ)	
14:00 ..... Cairo (RJ)	
14:25 ..... Moscow (RJ)	
21:15 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
21:30 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)	
22:15 ..... Dubai, Moscow (RJ)	
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15 ..... Beirut (ME)	



## Princess Basma opens special education centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday opened a special education centre in Zarqa.

The centre, which was set up by the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS), provides care to some 40 handicapped children.

The Princess also toured Al Amal Centre for the Multi-handicapped in Yajouz and inspected the services offered to handicapped children.

At a meeting with members of the Executive Committee of GUVS, attended by Minister of Social Development Awni Al Bashir, Princess Basma stressed the need for intensifying efforts to develop and improve social work and for expanding the base of services offered to citizens.

Princess Basma earlier met

with members of the voluntary societies in Zarqa and members of the mental health society where she was received by GUVS President Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib and Jazi Majali, president of the Voluntary Societies Union in Zarqa.

Dr. Khatib stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between social and welfare societies in the field of social services and noted that GUVS had set up ten centres for the multi-handicapped.

Mr. Majali praised the role played by Princess Basma in upgrading the level of social development.

Princess Basma was accompanied by Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki, the Irbid mayor and a number of government officials in the governorate.



PREMIER RECEIVES PROMINENT WRITER: The Prime Minister, Mr. Taber Masri, received Sunday Dr. Nasseriddin Nashashibi, the prominent Arab writer and author, who is currently paying a week-long visit to Jordan. Dr. Nashashibi is a veteran journalist, who wrote several books on Arab history and personalities, among them the late King Abdullah, founder of the Kingdom. Dr. Nashashibi yesterday also visited the Jordan Press Foundation and met with Al Rai Editor-in-Chief Mahmood Al Kayed and Jordan Times Editor George Hawatmeh.

## Factory blames rise in cement prices on axial weights law

By Mohammad Khataibeh  
 Petra

AMMAN — The Jordan Cement Factory Company (JCFC) moved Sunday to clarify matters related to the sudden rise in prices of cement produced in Jordan, blaming the new axial weights law, which affects trucks transporting cement and other goods, as the main reason behind the increase in prices.

Hatem Halawani, the company director general, said in a statement that the law forced the company to employ additional number of trucks to transport the cement and this will cost the company at least JD 6 million annually, with adverse consequences to the shareholders and the national economy.

The government last year enforced the axial law, which restricts the trucks tonnage in order to protect the roads in the country, but the move has caused complications for major mining industries, like the phosphate, the fertilisers and potash which had to employ additional trucks, incurring heavy expenses.

According to Mr. Halawani, the reduction of truck loads by half has not only caused a reduction in exports but also upset the local markets which began to feel the shortage of cement for the ever increasing construction operations. Mr. Halawani said that the increase in the number of trucks employed to transport the cement had increased by JD 12 million the cost of fuel for the country and further complicated transport operations in the port of Aqaba.

"The trucks require an increased amount of spare parts and fuel, costing the country a fortune each year," he added. "Indeed the axial weights law would adversely affect the Kingdom's balance of payments because a rise in the price of cement or any commodity will make it less competitive on foreign markets, with eventual less sales," Mr. Halawani added.

"There must be a way for balancing the process of exports versus safety of the roads so that the problem can be solved," Mr. Halawani said.

"The JCFC has large amounts of cement ready for export, but the factory does not have sufficient trucks and so the company stands to lose much of its foreign markets," Mr. Halawani said. Referring to the company's production, he said that since the middle of last year all production

lines went into operation, altogether producing 2.7 million tonnes of kinkar annually, a level never before reached by the company which was established in 1954.

Mr. Halawani said that the Jordanian markets consume nearly 1.5 million tonnes of the total production.

Referring to the shortage of cement in the local markets, Mr. Halawani said that reducing the capacity of trucks by half brought about a shortage of cement in the market and encouraged merchants to raise the prices.

However, he said, the company continues to distribute seven to eight thousand tonnes of cement to the Jordanian markets on a daily basis and the price

remains at JD 39 per tonne.

The president of the Construction Factories Association, Youssef Humeidi, said that he has called the government's attention to the sudden and unjustifiable increase in cement prices. He said that each tonne had increased by JD 7 to JD 8 simply because merchants were not receiving sufficient amounts of cement.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb said in a statement later that the government did not intend to increase cement prices. He blamed the crisis on the application of the axial weights law.

The minister said he had asked the cement factory to increase the amounts of cement in the local markets and noted that any per-

son can buy any amount of cement directly from the factory at official prices.

The minister said a balance between the axial weight law, to protect the roads, and the need to maintain industrial development in Jordan required further discussions and close cooperation. He said that the Ministry of Industry would deal with the problem and all other issues that emanate from the application of the axial weights law.

The minister was speaking after chairing a meeting at his office, attended by directors of the cement, phosphate, and Jordan petroleum refinery companies, to study means of dealing with the problem and protect national interests.

## Nammar completes ACC term

AMMAN (J.T.) — Assistant Secretary General of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) Hisham Tawfiq has said that the term of office of the ACC Secretary General Hisham Nammar has expired leaving him with no legal status as the ACC secretary general.

In an interview with the Arabic daily Al Rai, Mr. Tawfiq said the two-year term of Dr. Nammar had expired and that the renewal of his contract required that the four member states — Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt — nominate him and approve of his appointment during an ACC meeting.

He ruled out the possibility of an early meeting of the ACC member states saying that it would take some time before such a meeting is held.

Asked whether Egypt had requested that its membership in the ACC be frozen during the Gulf crisis, as news reports stated, Mr. Tawfiq said the general secretariat has not received any requests from member states for freezing or suspending their membership in the council.

In view of the current political circumstances, the general secretariat is initiating a number of measures to clear the atmosphere among the member states. Mr. Tawfiq pointed out that the ACC secretariat would continue its contacts with the member states and the Arab League Secretary General to discuss regional issues, including the Palestine question.

He added that the council planned to work out a formula for cooperation with other Arab alliances, including the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Union of the Maghreb states as well as the Arab League.

## Alawneh's press conference postponed

AMMAN (J.T.) — A press conference by former Agriculture Minister Mohammad Alawneh scheduled for Sunday has been postponed until further notice. The postponement coincided with a local press report that the former minister's decision allowing to goats to graze freely in forests had been cancelled.

Mr. Alawneh was expected at the press conference to outline his ministry's performance under his mandate and to defend his decision to allow goats and sheep to graze in forest lands.

The former minister, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood Bloc in Parliament had stirred a public controversy by his decision and an outcry from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Journalists taken on a tour of several forests set up by the society witnessed severe damage to the trees caused by the goats, called the black locusts by the Society President Anis Musher.

The minister had said that goats were allowed only into forests that had been planted for 15 years, but journalists saw damage to trees in newly planted forests.

In announcing the postponement, Mr. Alawneh said he wanted to consult over the matter with the other members of the Islamic Bloc in Parliament. A report in Al Dastour earlier said that the Ministry of Agriculture had issued an order banning grazing in the forest lands in a bid to protect the natural wealth.

## Ministry pledges to address environmental issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment will give due attention to the issue of greening Jordan, preventing desertification and continuing building operations on arable land, according to Minister of Municipal Affairs Salim Zoubi.

"The ministry is determined to draw up the national environment strategy, which would help promote its projects in these fields and to protect the natural wealth of Jordan," the minister said at a meeting with heads of departments and senior officials.

"In fact, the ministry's main concern in the coming stage will focus on promoting the work of municipalities in various governorates, protecting the environment and natural wealth and preserving the agricultural area of the country," the minister added.

"We look forward to close cooperation with other concerned government and private organisations to green Jordan and combat

desertification and random construction operations which swallow up good productive land," the minister said.

As soon as the ministry finalises work on the national environment strategy, it will submit it to the Parliament's ordinary session for approval, Mr. Zoubi said.

"The ministry is also giving due attention to municipal and village councils. Through cooperation with the Cities and Villages Development Bank arrangements will be made to enable various local councils to promote their services to the public, the minister added.

The minister stressed the need for decentralisation of ministry work and said that departments in various governorates would be given more power to help the ministry with its work in matters related to development of real estate.

The meeting discussed financial difficulties facing local councils and ways of enabling these

councils to engineer income-generating projects to provide income for the council's programmes.

Another important topic discussed at the meeting was related to the newly created dumping site for poisonous and dangerous materials, 65 kilometres south of Amman. The 850-dunum plot of land assigned as a dumping site will be used by various factories and industrial plants which will also finance its operations and maintenance.

Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Bani Hani, who attended the meeting, said that rules concerning the dumping site prohibit any individual or organisation from dumping dangerous waste of any nature in any place other than the new site assigned by the ministry. He said that contacts with the World Bank were underway to obtain a loan and expertise for the future development of the dumping site.

## UNEDBAS project moves to Amman

By Maha Adissi  
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After being based in Tunisia for eleven years, the project Population Communications, that is supervised by the United Nations office for Education in the Arab States (UNEDBAS) has just been moved to Jordan, in accordance with the policy by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that supports decentralisation.

The decentralisation policy, adopted by the director general in the United Nations headquarters in Paris and approved in 1976, had the purpose of gradually decentralising its secretariat.

According to Nassem Mdanat, the regional advisor for UNEDBAS, the move from Tunisia had nothing to do with Jordan directly, but Jordan's Yarmouk University was the first, and one of the few, to adopt the Population Communications programme (one

of 12 main programmes under the umbrella of UNEDBAS) as part of its mass communication curriculum.

"Jordan was one country that immediately realised the impact of population increase. UNEDBAS has already accomplished successful projects, in cooperation with Yarmouk University, in order to reach our ultimate goal of making people aware of the impact of population increase," Mr. Mdanat said, insisting that moving the UNEDBAS office was a decision made by the headquarters in Paris and had nothing to do with the cooperation with Yarmouk University.

"Our studies of population increase take place throughout the Arab World and the Population Communications programme was directed successfully from Tunisia for several years," Mr. Mdanat said. UNEDBAS was able to extend assistance and support to the Arab member states through five main types of activities.

The U.N. office organises meetings, seminars and workshops in cooperation with specialists and educational officials from member states.

UNEDBAS also organises missions and advisory services in education taking into consideration the needs of the Arab states. Studies and research projects to address national and regional concerns for the development of education are also part of UNEDBAS activities.

Another programme organised by UNEDBAS is information and organisation, which has the purpose of strengthening the link between UNESCO and its member states on the one hand and between Arab states' concerned ministries and other bodies responsible for education on the other, to facilitate exchange of information and experience.

Also organised by UNEDBAS is the study tours and fellowships programme.

## Roman temple, archaeological sites in the heart of Amman to be restored

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities has embarked on a two-stage restoration project at the Amman Citadel Hill, in the centre of the capital which contains a Roman temple among other archaeological sites.

The announcement was made by Dr. Mahmoud Al Najjar, director of excavations at the site, who said that the project was being financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The restoration work entails the reconstruction of the Roman temple, which dates back to the second century A.D., Dr. Najjar said.

In the first phase of the project the excavators will unearth the temple and its surrounding walls and columns, which contain very

many frescoes, while the second phase entails re-building the temple, said Dr. Najjar.

"The Amman Citadel is considered one of the most significant archaeological sites in the capital because the hill and the citadel were used by the various rulers of the region over the ages," Dr. Najjar added.

He said that the citadel carried the name of Philadelphia under the Greeks and the Romans, and the city of Amman was considered one of the Roman decapolis (the ten Roman cities in the region).

Under the Byzantines, he said, several churches were built on the hill which was also utilised by the Omayyad, Abbasid and Ottoman rulers in the Islamic era.

The city of Amman, or Philadelphia, served as an important

trading centre under the Ottomans who built the Hijaz railway that passes through the city and links the various parts of the Ottoman empire, according to Dr. Najjar.

Initial excavations have revealed the presence of four different architectural periods, dating back to 1700 B.C., which means that civilisation was a continued process in the region, Dr. Najjar said.

Once the restoration work is completed in a two-year period, Dr. Najjar said, the temple will rise to at least 14 metres and would serve as a remarkable archaeological site in the capital.

## King honours Obeidat



Ahmad Obeidat

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday decorated Mr. Ahmad Obeidat, chairman of the Royal Commission for the National Charter, with Jordan's Al Nabha Medal of the First Order, which he conferred upon Mr. Obeidat in appreciation of his dedicated efforts in drafting the National Charter.

The decoration took place at the Royal Court, in the presence of the Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The King had conferred medals on all the commission's members in appreciation of their efforts.

## ICARDA project to boost fodder, livestock output

By Serene Halasa  
 Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The West Asia Regional Office of the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) is currently working on a project that focuses on increasing the production of barley, pasture and livestock, according to an official at the ICARDA office in Jordan.

The Mashreq project will encompass three countries: Jordan, Syria and Iraq, Dr. Nasir Haddad, the regional programme coordinator for West Asia said. The \$3.4 million project is funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Fund.

"It is also executed by the national programme and ICARDA," Dr. Haddad told the Jordan Times. "ICARDA will act as a catalyst, providing expertise and training when needed."

Syrian-based ICARDA is one of 13 independent centres supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). It focuses on the improvement of barley, lentil, wheat, chickpea, faba bean, pasture and forage crops in six regional areas in the world.

ICARDA's six regional programmes are the West Asia Regional Programme, including Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Cyprus and the lowlands of Turkey. The West Asia regional programme is run by the

Amman-based ICARDA office.

The second programme is the Highland Regional Programme, which includes Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and the mountainous region of Morocco.

The third is the North African Regional Programme, which includes Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

The fourth is the Nile Valley Regional Programme, which includes Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

The fifth is the Arabian Peninsula Regional Programme, which includes all countries in the Arabian Peninsula.

The sixth is the Latin American Regional Programme, which, according to Mr. Benjamin Wedeman, a communications specialist at the ICARDA headquarters in Aleppo, Syria, is still at its early stages of development and does not have a defined area of focus.

Mr. Wedeman, who is currently on a visit to Jordan, will write about the West Asia Regional Programme, and will focus on agriculture and water in Jordan. He said that ICARDA's importance to this region stems from the need to prevent environmental degradation and desertification.

"There are areas on which the entire region depends for food, and those areas might be in danger," Mr. Wedeman said. "Our focus is to reverse the trend towards importing food," he added.

Mr. Wedeman explained that with a growing population there was a need to increase the production of food supplies and if the production was not enough countries in this region would resort to importing food from Europe and the United States.

"Depending on imported food will mean less money spent on investment and industry, causing lots of problems and slowing down the economy," he said.

ICARDA has four different research programmes, Mr. Wedeman said. The first deals with cereals, the second with legumes, the third with pasture and livestock and the fourth with farm resource management. It also has a fifth unit that deals with collecting and preserving genetic resources such as seed samples.

The West Asia regional office in Amman deals with regional research, the transfer of technology and training for the countries included in the West Asia programme.

In Jordan, the ICARDA office has been conducting research in the wheat areas in an effort to improve crops. It has also made studies on range land in the south of Jordan near the city of Karak.

The office will also provide training courses over the next three months in Jordan focusing on nutritional, farmland and sheep management. It will also offer a workshop on range land management, Dr. Haddad said.

## ROYAL JORDANIAN

### FROM TERMINAL 1 TO TERMINAL 2

As of July 1, all Royal Jordanian flights to the US and Canada, as well as Far East flights, will be using the North Terminal for their operation.

These flights include:

Amsterdam, New York, Montreal, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Delhi, Bangkok, Calcutta and Colombo.

### VACANCIES AVAILABLE

A foreign investment company seeks for a qualified sales person under the following conditions:

- 1- At least three years experience in international trading.
- 2- B.A. degree
- 3- English is a must. French will be a plus.
- 4- Typing is a must
- 5- Able to travel abroad
- 6- Computer will be preferable
- 7- Age 28-35 years
- 8- Male or female.

Kindly send your C.V., copy of certificates, and a recent picture to P.O.Box 2591 Amman — Jordan

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showqi Shoukhat, Mohammad Al Jalous and Rifqi Al Razzaz at Abdul Hameed Showman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al Shmahl at Alia Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Najwa Annab at the Spanish Cultural Centre.



## Jordan Times

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Established 1975  
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### Weekly Political Pulse

## The right to self-determination extends inward as well

By Waleed Sadi

DURING the last session of the U.N. Human Rights Committee, the committee charged with the task of investigating the extent and degree to which the state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights are adhering to that covenant, a debate erupted on the full import of Article 2 of the covenant that calls for the faithful implementation of the right to self-determination. Traditionally the principle of self-determination was interpreted to apply to dependent or non-self-governing countries referred to as colonies. According to that orthodox construction of the phenomenon of self-determination, it was thought that its pursuit and application ended when that dependent country gained independence and became self-governing.

Little did anybody think then that the right to self-determination is a continuous process that is never ending. By and large the developing countries of the world have interpreted the right to self-determination to be exhausted upon the achievement of independence. This perspective was upheld by them whenever the issue of the right to self-determination was raised in any international or U.N. forum. During my 15 years involvement in human rights within the U.N. system, I had often made daring attempts to expand on the orthodox interpretation of the right to self-determination by insisting that it does not end upon state

independence. For a long while my voice was the lonely voice calling for a more faithful definition of the right to self-determination. Many listeners would simply brush aside my crusade as utterly maverickish. To my pleasant surprise, satisfaction and gratification, I discerned during the last meeting of the U.N. Human Rights Committee that my lonely argumentation in favour of a broader construction of the right to self-determination was anything but lonely.

During the examination of the U.K. report to the committee, the high level U.K. delegation that presented their country's report stated the unthinkable by declaring that Britain observes and implements the right to self-determination by holding periodic elections that are democratically conducted! Never before has any nation made such a sweeping remark about the right to self-determination. I was of course gratified to note that there were others who shared my thoughts on the right to self-determination. When I later inquired with the British expert in the committee about the popularity of her countrymen's views on the right to self-determination within the committee she assured me that it is now the acceptable opinion within the committee that the right to self-determination is indeed a continuing process that does not end with independence. Thus the jurisprudence of the committee, generally regarded as the most

powerful and action-oriented U.N. body on human rights, is now well established in support of this more enlightened definition of the right to self-determination.

A second and closer reading of paragraph 1 of the Article 1 of the ICCPR would readily tip the balance in favour of the more liberal interpretation of the right to self-determination. "By virtue of that right (right to self-determination), they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development," reads the second part of that paragraph of Article 1. How else the peoples of the world determine their political status or freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development except through direct democratic elections on periodic basis? Besides the article on the right to self-determination was not phrased in such a way to suggest in the remotest way that its purview is confined to non-independent countries and their peoples. Had the drafters of the covenant meant to apply the right to self-determination solely to dependent peoples, they would have used different wording.

To sum up, as far as the countries that are state parties to the covenant, are concerned, the right to self-determination means first and foremost a democratic form of government governed on the basis of periodic national elections that are conducted on pluralistic foundation.

## Waiting for results

AT THE height of the Gulf crisis, the French were reported to have told their North African Arab friends that they were joining the war against Iraq simply and solely to ensure a role for themselves over the question of peace at a later stage. Peace has come neither to Iraq nor to Palestine so far.

Still, the voice of France and its president, most outspoken during the crisis, can hardly be heard in protest against stagnation and stalling, especially by the Israelis. The fate of the Iraqi people, and of Palestinians in Kuwait, is being left mainly to the U.S. and Britain to decide.

It seems that France, the country that at the height of the cold war chose to stay out of NATO's military wing, a champion of détente, has, after the demise of the Soviet Union as a superpower and the disintegration of the eastern communist bloc, is how satisfied to play a second-rate role in world politics. Since the sixties, when President Charles de Gaulle close to shed France's colonial legacy in North Africa, and his 1967 decision to halt arms supplies to Israel, the Arabs have looked to France a superpower friend which would counter-balance the unevenhandedness of the U.S. and sometimes Great Britain. Iraq in particular had placed so much trust and hope on French friendship. But at their moment of trial the Iraqis were bitterly betrayed. French and Western talk of human rights makes a mockery of what these rights are supposed to be. For while the West reads daily reports of Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the sanctions imposed by the West on that nation, the same West extends all possible help and support to undemocratic, backward regimes in the region.

The Arabs, or some of the more enlightened among them, had hoped that France would use its power and clout in the EEC to put pressure on the Americans and the Israelis to yield on the concept of the exchange of land for peace and on Palestinian representation to negotiations. France knows very well that without these two conditions fulfilled, the region will never see peace. And we hoped that France at the forefront of the North-South divide would be more forceful than it is in giving a real push to solve the Palestinian problem, which is bound to spill over onto the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean if it is not solved by the international community. The French in the North and the Arabs in the South are traditional partners, friends or foes, in the stability or instability and security of the Mediterranean region. The Arabs could be frustrated and bitter about France's recent policies. But they are determined to cooperate with the French and the other members of the EEC in order to bring peace and stability to a long-time place of confrontation. Twice in the past, the east positively fused with and influenced France: Once when the disciples of Christ headed to decadent Rome and brought Christianity to Europe; and once when enlightened Muslims brought free thought, art and science to the southern shores of dark age Europe. Now is a third and final chance for the ultimate reconciliation, and it is up to the "enlightened" Europeans to contribute more positively to the development and well-being of their fellow neighbours. We hope the visit of M. Roland Dumas to Jordan will prove to have been a solid step in that direction. We should be eagerly waiting to see real results.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily Sunday warned the Arabs of the looming danger represented in threats posed by Israel against Syria, and the U.S. against Iraq, and said the time has come for the Arabs to forget their side differences and join forces to repel the aggression on the Arab Nation. The daily noted that Washington was threatening to launch a fresh aggression on Iraq under the pretext that the country is carrying out a nuclear programme while Israel was issuing threats against Syria and claiming that Damascus possessed nuclear and chemical weapons which should be destroyed. The paper said while the U.S. is doing all it can to keep the Iraqis weak, the Israelis are trying to subjugate Syria to Zionist will and crush any Arab force that might stand up in the face of Israel's expansionist designs. The United States is defying all norms and international principles by launching aggression on a country that is not attacking any other member of the United Nations, and ignoring the fact that Israel continues to occupy lands belonging to Lebanon, Palestine and Syria and supplying Israel with weapons to help it carry out its expansionist programmes and settlement plans, the paper pointed out. It said that the U.S.-Israeli threats directed against Iraq and Syria are meant for all Arabs without any exception, and both aggressors are in a hurry to obliterate Arab countries forces to ensure Israel's continued supremacy. This is the most serious threat yet directed against the Arabs, said the paper, because it is a threat to their future and their very existence.

Al Dastour daily noted that Israel's air bridge to transport a new wave of Soviet immigrants to the occupied territories was part of the Jewish state's plan to create what is called greater Israel filled with hundreds of thousands of Jewish settlers living in the occupied Arab lands. The air bridge means that the "great Israel" dream Yitzhak Shavit and other Zionist leaders had been advocating is now coming true, and practical steps are being taken to fulfill the long-sought dream. This is a very dangerous situation calling for speedy action on the part of the Arabs especially as this move coincides with what is called American initiatives to find a lasting settlement to the Palestine problem and James Baker's on-and-off trips to the region. The paper noted that Israel was doing all it can to gather Jews from Ethiopia, from Europe and elsewhere in the world in order to fulfill the dream of a "greater Israel" at the expense of the Arab Nation. It said that it is clear that the so-called American initiatives have so far failed to achieve anything at all in stopping Israel's settlement and expansionist plans, let alone the establishment of peace based on justice.

## King: There is no alternative to Mideast peace except disaster

The following is the full text of an interview with His Majesty King Hussein that appeared in the Tokyo daily Yomiuri Shimbun on Sunday.

Question: Your Majesty, this is the greatest honour for us to have a chance of interviewing you; and I surely believe that this occasion may bring better relations and better understanding between your country and Japan. Personally, this is my dream achieved to see Your Majesty, because last October, I had an interview with (former) President Jimmy Carter of the United States; at that time, President Carter told me King Hussein is the only person—who can make peace movement in this area. "So if you have a chance, please try to see King Hussein." That was the message of President Carter, so...

Answer: President Carter was a very worthy friend of ours for many years. I recall at the beginning of his presidency we had many talks and many hopes for a comprehensive peace in the region; but then, things went, of course, in a different direction; instead of the comprehensive peace at that time that we sought, we've seen one to be drawn as a partner in the peace making. And we had some difficult times in our relations, but I take him extremely close, and I respect him very much as a man who knows the area and knows its problems and as a man who is certainly committed to the cause of peace. So we are in touch, from time to time, and I think he knows the problems probably more than many people in the world now do.

Q: Your Majesty, if I may ask you, I would like to first raise this question: we are now coming close to (the first) anniversary of the beginning of the Gulf crisis... I would like to ask Your Majesty how you estimate the chance of success for the peace processes, even though we have some negative and stubborn attitude of the parties involved.

A: I think, sir, if we look at it in the following way that there is simply no other alternative, except disaster, to the establishment of a just and durable peace in this region, then we have to assume that every effort would be made to ensure that this purpose is reached, probably soon. After all, sir, we're talking about the root-cause of instability in this entire region, probably over many years in the past. We are talking about a continuously changing situation, that's not even static, which is affecting the human dimension, which is affecting the economy, even our feelings in such a manner, sir, that I believe we have two choices given to move to try to resolve this problem; and I think this is a chance. We are talking of the new world and the new world order, principles would just be applied everywhere, or else, sir, we are adrift towards greater extremism, and then the problems which we might have faced in the past would be lead to, God forbid, an inevitable explosion in this region soon, a crater devastating for everybody. This is a chance; this is the opportunity where everybody wants to do something for the rights of future generations, to live in peace, to live with human dignity, to live in a situation that they feel they can protect and to pull their energies and resources towards attaining a better future, which is very, very possible. You would say how? I really don't know, but what we have heard so far, what is suggested, we need the process to start, and start soon, and our understanding is that it should be based on the two famous Security Council resolutions, 242, 338. Resolution 242's statement spoke

of exchanging land for peace, this is in fact an element in these resolutions. However, there is a two-track approach, of course, this means that the Palestinian-Israeli dimension is addressed, and we believe that this is recognised universally that this cannot happen without the Palestinians themselves being involved, it's their problem, and it is their right to make their contribution towards peace. On the other hand, an Arab-Israeli approach, sir, these two courses will run at parallel (course), and meet at the end; and their meeting will bring also the results before the assumed Security Council, because after all, 242 and 338 end up with Security Council guarantees, and they receive the blessing of the world and the support of the world.

This is where we are at the moment, we have said here in Jordan that we are more than happy if the Palestinians choose to approach us on the idea of a joint delegation. If this is the only way that helps in some way, then we would be more than willing to look at it again—we had such an opinion almost in 1985—and then there will be a Palestinian delegation that will deal with the Palestinian-Israeli element of the problem within the context of a joint delegation, and there will be a Jordanian one to deal with the Arab aspects of the problem. The problem beyond that is not only Jordan's and Palestine's and Israel's and maybe some of the countries in the area, it is a regional problem, it's a world problem.

I'd like to say, we don't have a very clear view of how we're going to be able to provide drinking water, not over a very short space of time, for people here. I'm not only talking of Jordan, I'm talking of Jordan, of the West Bank, of the occupied territories. These are problems that are present, these are problems that can only be dealt with in the context of peace. Continued frustration, continued denial of people of their human rights, of these in the occupied territories, or elsewhere, people even in the Arab World, is something that cannot go on continuing. For example, with the Gulf crisis, which caught us by surprise, it was a terrible shock for us all, and has not yet ended in terms of its effects. We stood for peace, sir, we did not stand for the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, we wanted to reverse the process peacefully, we wanted a peaceful solution to the border problems, we wanted to avoid military confrontation between those two countries, we were not for that wider confrontation which occurred, and we were concerned for the stability of region as a whole. We were also concerned for the ecological dimension of the problem, which is now with us. But we were definitely against the occupation of territory by war, as we are over the Palestinian issue, in terms of the preamble of resolution 242 of the Security Council, being the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war, as we have been on the Cyprus issue, Falklands, and recently this problem.

Nonetheless, we have received back something like 250,000 people, some of whom have been working for the Gulf governments three generations or so. A very huge leap through Jordan. In the first place, I think they can contribute, hopefully to Jordan, because we were suffering to a degree from a brain-drain aspect in the past. But, on the other hand, they certainly will have to have their rights; this problem is



going to be resolved. If an Israeli has a right to have an Israeli nationality, and the nationality of any other country, many of them do outside the region, then certainly a Palestinian has got his rights as well, throughout the region and throughout the world, so that, when you take the land mass of Jordan as the land mass of Palestine, and that you consider that you're going to put all the Jews in the world, and all the Palestinians in the world, and all the Jordanians in the world, and expect that you can have peace, you'd have, even the possibility of this happening, it's impossible. Therefore, everybody has a responsibility. We would like the rest of the world to be with us to have this process leading to peace. We would like the moral weight of the world with us, we would like, certainly, if it is not under the United Nations auspices, in terms of that the United Nations being involved, that we have many events that will end up with the guarantees of the Security Council which are implicit in 242 and 338. I would like to see Europe involved, we would like to see everybody doing so; after all, problems that are universal, problems that affect everyone of us as the world is becoming much smaller and as a result we must work, closer than in the past.

Q: Thank you very much Your Majesty. I would like to be a little bit pessimistic about Mr. Baker's peace initiative. I think Mr. Baker worked very hard shuttling many countries, and what is called the regional peace conference, sponsored by the U.S. and the USSR. But even though he worked so hard, it seems to us that now the deadlock situation has come. And at the same time, we have to point out that the Israelis are rather negatively fashioned towards Mr. Baker's appeal. But in this situation, how do you analyse first of all the Israelis' attitude for the peace plan, and is it true for us to understand that we believe it to be a deadlock?

A: Thank you. I honestly don't know, sir. I have been in Petra and made some statements, I really mean them. I expressed my readiness. If there is a peace plan, we will be there. If it is a question of taboos, I think, these ought to be removed from the scene. I don't think any Arab can claim to be more of a patriot than the people under occupation hanging on to their land, and their rights, and have been there for years and years. So if there is a chance, then let us get together and talk and discuss matters, not only unilaterally, but I am also talking in the context of having a process that involves all the parties concerned. Therefore, it is not a Jordanian-Israeli problem or a

Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli, but we are very happy that the Gulf Cooperation Council is involved in it, but hopefully to be involved in beyond what they have already suggested. It is also suggested that there is a need for an educational process. An Israeli who has lived in a fortress and with a fortress mentality has got to understand what peace offers. In the same way the Arabs have to have the same feelings, and to explore this possibilities, and how they do, and realise that what is there is something different from anything that has happened so far. There are, therefore, many of our friends throughout the world who help us with their ideas and contributions. Secretary Baker has been here and we are in touch back there with President Bush. It may be a phase that people are now thinking about, but I suppose we will be hearing (from them) soon. To be honest, I feel that the new process cannot be covered in detail in the media. There has to be some quiet diplomacy, some work to try to do. It is going to take some time. So we need the goodwill of all Arabs including our friends in the media in particular to encourage progress.

Q: So can I understand that what Your Majesty called quiet diplomacy is now under way?

A: No, I don't think I'm covering up anything, sir. Until now there isn't anything. I'm just talking about the future.

Q: Your Majesty, President Bush proposed to ban nuclear weapons, poisonous gas, ballistic missiles. Do you think that President Bush's proposal is realistic one concerning the situation here in the Middle East?

A: I think that the situation in the Middle East has been the cause and the source for the need for this. We should hopefully address, I certainly hope that there will be no need in the future for weapons to be here in the region, and I think that resources could be used relatively in other advantageous areas, to create a better future for people in this region.

Q: Your Majesty, follow up on this question: Do you have any idea in what way, in what formula, this, President Bush's idea, could be materialised?

A: I think, sir, that there has been a lot of thought about the experience of this in the rest of the world, particularly as a way of solving political problem; and I think that they are, sadly, facing their first test now.

Q: Your Majesty, a couple of minutes ago, you mentioned the past taboos; we understand that Your Majesty made an interview with a French magazine and Israeli officials have, after your comment was published, have issued to Your Majesty an invita-

tion to visit Israel. What did you mean precisely when you responded to the journalist that past taboos should be forgotten? How will you respond to the Israeli response?

A: Sir, you are referring to what I was saying earlier; I don't believe that it is a question of individual theatrical moves. What we need is a process, a process that involves everybody. It is not a question of myself, or the member of any country, sort of to be able to create a real process. The problem is far more serious than this; it's a problem that involves Palestinians, Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, Egyptians... But beyond that, sir, people who are in the entire region to share the future of mankind in this region; a solution that people can accept and live with. So I think it too simplistic to respond by thus, making a solution as has been made. All of us wish that there would be peace that would not affect individuals, but affect people in the entire region.

Q: Next question is concerning the future of the country of Iraq. During the Gulf war, surely, President Saddam Hussein had a very tough and difficult time, but we understand that Your Majesty, will at least, — President Saddam Hussein has a relation with Your Majesty, if I may say, like a friend, if I may say, as a statesmanship, sharing memories, how do you view now the future of Iraq and the future of the president of Iraq?

A: Sir, that is a question not for me to answer, but it has to be determined by the people of Iraq, and I would like to say here, again that my main concern throughout this period beyond any personal feelings towards any president or leader in the Arab World or in the world as a whole; and in this particular case, my concern was for Iraq and the people of Iraq, for their unity, for their future, for their rights, and for the prevention of the disintegration of the country and the sufferings (of the people). And I was not with the Iraqi leadership in their action in Kuwait. I was trying to reverse that, and despite the fact, sir, there is an impression that Jordan might have taken sides. I think Jordan was for peace. We found a very strange phenomena in the world, though many of our old friends adopted the attitude that you are either with us or against us. The answer is that neither with you nor against you. But I am against war, against the destruction that can occur, against creating wounds that might cause a lot of damage, material losses, the environment to suffer, may be even beyond this area.

In my life, sir, I have passed through two similar experiences and that both have been devastating too. In 1967, one afternoon in Aqaba, I heard on the radio that President Gamal Abdul Nasser had decided to close the Gulf of Aqaba for Israeli shipping and to put his troops in Sinai. I knew that the war was going to forth- come, and a few days later, I went to Cairo and asked what the decision was based on. I knew what the results would be. And so when the results occurred on the 5th of June 1967, and we are still suffering from the results until now. Obviously as far as we are concerned, we were affected directly here, as well as filling our obligations out the part of the Arab League and the Arab League Charter during the events of June. Second one, sir, is this recent one. I was not involved, I did not know. If I know there was a problem, I wish we have the right to end at the Arab summit in Baghdad and Kuwait, and I sensed that the atmosphere was not a very comfortable one there.

And I came back and I warned something has to be done to ensure that the meeting in Jeddah succeed. I expected this war, and I was against this brutality. I tried to reverse the process peacefully. So again, sir, in both cases there is one phenomenon which goes beyond this question of the rights of a leadership in a country to decide something that affects the people of the country. In both cases the effects, be it in 1967, or now, were far more reaching and affected us incidentally in both cases, as it affected beyond the region. Well, my belief, sir, is in the future, is in trying whenever possible a national reconciliation, a dialogue amongst people as we have had in Jordan, as we produced the National Charter which was ratified a short while ago as to bear respect for human rights, and to the participation in government. There are the guarantee, sir, that demagogues are not created, and that there are checks and balances for the stability and it is comprehensive, it will be effective.

Q: Now Jordan had good relations with the United States. However, during the Gulf crisis, the bilateral relationship between Jordan and the United States was to some extent put under strain. Now, how do you describe the relation of these two nations?

A: Sir, I would like to say that the relations have always been there. Unfortunately, in the last many years, and not recently, just during this crisis, we have seen them cool, and we have seen them deteriorate, and we have seen them become far less intense. And it is something that we can't do very much about. During the crisis, it reached the lowest possible point. But I hope, sir, that as we have built it with every nation on the basis of the feeling that we have always had that our relations with anyone in the world, the best of our friends, had to be based on mutual respect. And they have to be based on a desire to work for a better future. Be it in regard to our bilateral relations with every one in this region. And I hope that the relations are improving.

Q: So you are quite dissatisfied with the present situation?

A: I am not as satisfied as I would (like to be). But it is fair to say that the shock that has affected everybody in this region, and I believe that there are many grey areas where people are not exactly sure what happened that involves us as well to a degree. All is going to clear up. We know where we stood and therefore we are confident in the future.

Q: Your Majesty, about some aspects of domestic policies change, we are very much impressed with the process of democratisation in your country. I think that you think this democracy is very important for the future of your country. Do you think Jordan's step will influence other countries in the Middle East?

A: I hope it will. And I believe that there are many people who are watching and I think that this is the only way possible for the future, not only for the countries of the Middle East but anywhere else since it is the only way of ensuring stability and achieving progress. And after all no human being is immortal, sir. But if you have institutions and you have power-sharing, and if you have democracy, and if you have freedom, and if you are a part of movement to seeking a better future, then that is the best guarantee for a country looking for stability and for the attainment of the greatest hopes. I am very happy indeed that it didn't (happen) in the reverse way.

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## King: There is no alternative to peace

(Continued from page 4)

Usually this is achieved as a result of struggle against people who are afraid of the masses; this is my conviction and I am very happy, indeed, I am very proud to be a Jordanian who worked for this and to open the way for it.

Q: Another question which you took recently impressed us very much, this is the appointment of Mr. Masri to the prime minister position. Shall we understand that you have very important things in your mind that you took this decision? Did you have any particular purpose?

A: Yes, sir, I believe that he is relatively a young prime minister who has ahead a lot of experience and I believe that he has a good team with him and again it was exactly what the future outline of policies should be. I certainly included that in the message to the prime minister and beyond that the important thing that we should retain the best of what we can retain from our past and our tradition, and what we can offer to the rest of the world. And I believe, sir, that the challenge before us is greater than it has ever been. You know people regardless of where their origins, we must work, we must put our minds together, we must put our hearts together, sir, once and for all we should make of this coun-

try an example. I hope that every member of the choice of this prime minister would work together with his team, with democracy, and with all our support and that we succeed.

Q: Your Majesty, let me ask you a last question about something related to Japan. In Japan, we at least believe that we are trying to play some important role in this area especially during and after the Gulf crisis. How you evaluate the Japanese role played during this period?

A: I have noticed, sir, the interest in this area that we have recently sensed and we have received delegations, and we have received visits from important figures that came to the area and then went beyond to the other parts of the area that were affected and I am (pleased) by the interest and the concern. As far as our relations are concerned, they are stronger with the passage of time and there is a lot of respect that Jordanians have for Japan and follow their example. I believe that the relation will continue to develop and include all fields and areas. We certainly welcome that very much. As far as I am concerned, it has been a privilege that I will be always proud of the relationship between Jordan and Japan.

Q: Your Majesty, of course in your position, it is quite difficult to criticise Japan, but while we

Japanese sometimes question that in economical field, we think that we are playing a small role, however, it might be that we are lacking some political role in the global village. Do you share that kind of thinking?

A: I cannot comment on the feeling of our friends in Japan. But we would certainly like to witness and see that the role increases and that it should.

Q: I would like to ask Your Majesty how you appreciate the role of PLO in the Middle East political field?

A: The PLO has been, as far as I am concerned, the Palestinian address, the address of the Palestinian people. I am not talking of individuals. As far as we are concerned we have good relations with the PLO and we continue to have a dialogue with them so nonetheless should be. Palestinians must be involved in resolving the Palestinian problem. Nobody can choose who the Palestinians are. The Palestinians themselves have to choose their own representatives to resolve the problem. Nobody else has the right to do otherwise. And I hope that somehow, regardless of how many difficulties there are, things will work out in a way, that Palestinians must be attracted. If you want to close a chapter, the Palestinians have to be an important element in the process of peace.

## Libya's gains and losses from the Gulf crisis

By Omar Fayed

MUAMMAR Qadhafi seems to have emerged from the Gulf war unscathed, even victorious. While he avoided angering the U.S. and its allies, he reaped the benefits of the windfall in world oil prices. For once the Libyan ruler was happy to be out of the limelight, ceding the Nasserite thunder to his erstwhile enemy Saddam Hussein.

Libya's marginal involvement in Gulf affairs gave Qadhafi greater scope to play the role of peacemaker. From the outset he advocated an Arab peace plan, calling on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and the immediate departure of foreign troops from the region. After the failure of this early initiative he kept, by his standards, a low profile. This, however, did not stop him from other pursuits, which bore immediate dividends.

### The gains

The most tangible gain has been Libya's rapid pace of improved relations with Egypt. Despite the two countries contrasting roles during the crisis, Qadhafi and Hosni Mubarak met regularly in a show of solidarity. Last December in Cairo the two heads of government signed several accords pledging further economic cooperation between their countries. Ambitious plans were unveiled, including the settlement of nearly one million Egyptians to till land irrigated by the new Great Man-Made River (GMR) project in Libya.

The events in the Gulf, naturally, overshadowed other significant

events in the region. One which brought immense relief to the Libyan ruler was the overthrow of Hissene Habre's regime in Chad. While the U.S. and France were preoccupied with the Gulf, he had a free hand to back Idriss Deby's takeover of Chad. Libya's military aid to Deby finally paid off as the rebels marched victoriously into Njamena in December. In return, Qadhafi gained the immediate release of Libyan prisoners of war held since 1986. This goodwill gesture by Deby was rewarded by an almost daily airlift of humanitarian aid from Libya to its impoverished neighbour. More important, the war between the two countries, which had been waged for more than 15 years, seemed to be at an end. Libya's chances for a rapprochement with France, which, in the past, backed the Chadian government against Qadhafi, were more likely.

The other substantial benefit from the events of the Gulf so far for Libya has been the rise in oil prices which has boosted Libya's revenues from oil exports. At the outset of the Gulf crisis Qadhafi ordered a substantial increase in Libya's daily production from 1.2m to 1.6m barrels. The country's estimated oil earnings in 1990 jumped to \$10.5bn, up more than double the figures for 1988. As a result Libya's deposits with foreign banks have increased, and its creditworthiness has been enhanced. This has eased the pressure on the regime, providing more funds to run the country, pay wages and supply food to the population.

### The losses

Although the Libyan ruler appears to have emerged from the Gulf crisis strong, this position, and the potential gains it promises, are in danger of being undermined.

Qadhafi has set himself a difficult task of juggling Egypt on the one hand and his Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) partners on the other. The improved relations with Cairo already appear precarious. Government policy does not appear to reflect Libya's public mood, which was hostile to the American-led coalition in the Gulf. Furthermore, the proposed import of up to a million Egyptian workers and their families, which will alleviate some of Egypt's economic hardships, is unlikely to be welcomed by Libya's small population. Already there are first-hand accounts by Egyptian workers returning from Libya of maltreatment.

Moreover, Qadhafi's honeymoon with Egypt has come at the expense of improved relations with Libya's Maghreb neighbours. Libya's AMU partners (Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria and Tunisia) have always been wary of Qadhafi's overtures to Egypt and the latest economic arrangements with it are viewed as coming at their expense. Already the proposed migration of a large Moroccan workforce to Libya has gone by the wayside. Libya has also abandoned plans for a rail link with Tunisia in favour of a similar link with Egypt. Libyan investments have shifted east to Cairo instead of

west to Tunis or Algiers.

Even the results of Deby's takeover in Chad are mixed. Although Qadhafi was delighted to see the presence of the leading Libyan opposition group, the NFSL, eliminated from Chad, he was angry with Deby for not handing over any of the group's members. Qadhafi sent Mas'ud Abdul Hafidh to Njamena to negotiate handing them over, but he returned to Tripoli empty-handed.

On the diplomatic front, the two regimes are no closer to a peaceful resolution of their territorial dispute. The Algiers Accord of August 1989 failed to resolve the dispute over the Aouzou Strip, and Deby, like his predecessor, has made it clear he is not prepared to relinquish any territory. Already there are unconfirmed reports that armed conflict over the strip between the two countries has resumed. According to French sources, Libyan troops clashed with Chad's armed forces in January inside Chadian territory. French reconnaissance planes confirmed that Libyan military units had reached Bardai and Zouar 160 kilometres into Chad. If true, this will further undermine prospects for a peaceful resolution over the Aouzou Strip.

### Problems over oil production

Finally, although the increase in oil revenues was a significant relief for the Libyan regime, the rise in oil prices exposed the limitations of Libya's oil production capacity, severely limited by U.S. economic sanctions. Libya's

American-made oil equipment has not been upgraded since sanctions were imposed by the Reagan administration in 1986. Hence Libya was unable to increase production up to full capacity (a further 400,000 bpd) during the Gulf crisis.

Moreover, oil prices have come down steadily to levels below those of August 1990, before Iraq invaded Kuwait. The substantial amount of revenue made in the past nine months will have to cover servicing Libya's outstanding debt for ambitious and expensive development projects like the GMR and the Misurata steel complex. The remainder will be siphoned off by Qadhafi's principal priority for expenditure, defence. This will not be diminished, especially if he plans to escalate a military campaign against Chad. Libya's defence spending will also continue to spiral as Qadhafi pursues a missile and chemical weapons programme. These are certain to drain the bulk of the country's revenues.

The onus is on Qadhafi to take advantage of the new situation. The ball is in his court. If he can reconcile closer ties with both Egypt and the Maghreb; if he can avoid the temptation of prosecuting an unpopular war against Chad; if he can persuade the United States to lift economic sanctions; and if oil wealth is channelled into improving living standards; only then will his regime actually be able to reap the benefits of the events in the Gulf — Middle East International, London.

## PLO leader

(Continued from page 1)

hospital," his chief bodyguard, Saad Hijawi, told the Associated Press.

Funeral arrangements had not been set, but it is believed that Mr. Ahmad will be buried in Amman.

At one point during his illness, Ahmad was flown to the United States, relatives said.

Mr. Ahmad was born in the Palestinian village of Haditha, near Lod.

He was a young schoolboy when his family emigrated to Jordan in the wake of the 1948 war.

Mr. Ahmad attended school in Jordan and obtained a degree in agriculture from Damascus University.

He joined Palestine freedom fighters' ranks as a teenager. He formed his Arab Liberation Front with financial help from Iraq in 1970. The Palestine National Council accepted the group as a PLO faction the same year.

In 1982, the PNC elected him to the Executive Committee, a 15-man decision-making body which is headed by Mr. Arafat and comprises senior leaders of the nine factions under the PLO umbrella.

Mr. Ahmad enjoyed broad respect among Palestinians, including those who disagreed with pro-Iraqi Baathist views.

In 1974 the ALF joined the short-lived rejectionist front, which opposed the PLO's call for a peaceful solution based on a territorial compromise with Israel.

Mr. Ahmad also opposed the 1988 PLO peace strategy, but had remained committed to the PLO institutions.

It was not immediately clear who would take over as secretary-general of the ALP.

His seat on the committee will remain vacant until the next PNC meeting, because under the PLO charter the PNC is the only body capable of electing the Executive Committee. The date and venue of the annual session have not been fixed.

Mr. Ahmad is survived by his wife, Widad, three daughters and a son.

## France to seek U.N. conference

(Continued from page 1)

by King Hussein. Prime Minister Taher Faysal and Foreign Minister Abdul Nour on French-Jordanian relations, on Middle East issues and the efforts to bring about a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Dumas said France would press for a U.N.-sponsored Middle East peace conference if the ongoing efforts spearheaded by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker failed.

Mr. Dumas said that while Jordan and France both backed the peace plan being promoted by Mr. Baker, the success of the plan was not certain. "France will not sit there with folded arms and do nothing should the Baker plan fail to bring tangible results," he told the press conference.

Mr. Dumas also told reporters before his departure for France that "those who seek to delay the peace process are playing for time when every moment counts. Indeed we are pressed for time."

"France appreciates Jordan's efforts to facilitate the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict by peaceful means," Mr. Dumas said. "Israel's refusal to comply with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 were discussed at length by Mr. Dumas in his talks with Mr. Masri and Mr. Nour, Petra, said.

Time was important he said evidently referring to the pace in which Israel is accelerating the building of settlements in the occupied territories.

"It would be extremely dangerous to remain at the present stalemate of the peace process," Mr. Dumas said.

France will do its best to secure the success of the current or any future attempts to bring about a permanent peace to the region, the French foreign minister said.

Jordan, he stressed, plays a special role in the actualisation of any settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict for "obvious reasons." He did not elaborate.

In the post-Gulf war era, France and Jordan continue to have excellent bilateral relations, Mr. Dumas said.

A telephone call from the French president to King Hussein at the end of the Gulf war and a visit by the King to France had re-consolidated those relations, he said.

French financial aid to Jordan will be \$20 billion in 1991 — the same as 1990.

Mr. Dumas said that France would participate in any European Community aid that would be forthcoming to Jordan.

The economic difficulties faced by Jordan as a result of the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the virtual closure of the port of Aqaba for most of the latter part of last year will be studied by France in an attempt to come up with some form of compensation of the losses that were incurred by Jordan, Mr. Dumas said.

"I promised Jordan that I would bring this matter up with our allies so that we would find a formula to alleviate some of the losses currently incurred by Jordan," Mr. Dumas said.

Mr. Dumas visited the Arab countries in the Maghreb shortly after the end of the Gulf war. His current visit to Jordan was first to the Middle East by the French foreign minister since the end of the war in March.

The priority given by France to Jordan, political observers say, indicates the importance the European Community and France in particular place on Jordan's role resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Senior Jordanian officials as well as a French Foreign Ministry delegation and French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bouchard attended Mr. Dumas' meetings here.

## Masri visits PSD

(Continued from page 1)

was working hard to develop the national economy and overcome the negative aspects affecting the development march.

"However, achieving this goal requires the intensification of all efforts, including those of the PSD, which are essential components for democracy and economic growth," he said.

He also said that the difficult situations arising from the economic hardships have had their bearings on the social situations thus placing additional burdens on the PSD personnel.

Mr. Masri was accompanied on the visit by Interior Minister Jawdat Al-Sboul.

## Brotherhood

(Continued from page 1)

portfolio, but denied that it was the factor that influenced the movement's decision to stay out of the new government.

Mr. Azaidah, who conducted negotiations with Mr. Masri on behalf of the Brotherhood, said that his group had already taken a decision that the movement would not accept portfolios in the cabinet in light of indications that the cabinet might join the proposed peace conference, which entailed talks with Israel.

"It is true that Mr. Masri did not offer us the education portfolio, but that was not the reason why we declined participation in the cabinet," he explained.

"If indeed that was the reason, how come we did not insist for the education portfolio?" he asked.

Despite the movement's denial, some political analysts and observers still believe that the movement's refusal to join the government was in reaction to what was perceived as Mr. Masri's move to curb their influence in government by not offering them the Ministry of Education and forming a coalition with liberals and left-of-centre groups.

Historically speaking the Brotherhood, or the Ikhwan as they are called in Arabic, had maintained influence over the Ministry of Education even before they were offered the portfolio by former Prime Minister Mudar Badran.

Influence in the ministry and schools was a major means for the Ikhwan to further institutionalise Islamic Sharia philosophy and practices which the government views as a prerequisite for the establishment of an Islamic state.

Therefore, the loss of the portfolio was seen by many as an important factor that prompted

the Brotherhood's negative response to Mr. Masri's offer, especially that Jordan's declared commitment to peaceful solution with Israel had not prevented the Ikhwan from joining the cabinet of Badran.

Mr. Azaidah, whose official title is spokesman of the movement's parliamentary group, dismissed such suggestions by stressing that the Brotherhood was ready to pull out from Mr. Badran's cabinet if there were signs of impending peace talks with Israel.

"It is true that Jordan has a long standing commitment to a peaceful solution. But there were no indications that the former government was about to engage in peace talks... it is different with this cabinet since other observers agree that peace talks are in the offing," Mr. Azaidah argued.

The deputy, however, avoided any direct or indirect criticism of the new cabinet saying that "the movement hoped that its assessment about possible peace negotiations would prove to be wrong."

Mr. Azaidah explained that the movement's opposition to peace talks not only emanates from a principled rejection of negotiations with the Zionist state but also reflects conviction that any peace conference will only enhance the dominance of Israel.

The Ikhwan's emphasis, in public statements, on their opposition to the new cabinet's possible participation in a peace conference, has raised concern that it will result in a confrontation with the government and disruption of the democratisation process.

But Mr. Azaidah ruled out such a scenario saying that the movement will not allow its differences with the government to undermine the path towards democracy.

"Our differences in assessing the political situation will not

lead to a confrontation... after all we are convinced that peace talks will not lead to anything; so why should we clash (with anybody) over a mirage?" he asked.

The fact that the Ikhwan, the biggest organised movement in the country and in Parliament (22 members), are now operating outside the cabinet has also given way to speculation and fears here that there might be a threat to political pluralism in the country.

Such concern was strengthened by the recent events in Algiers, where differences led to bloody clashes between the government and Islamic groups. It was further fuelled by reported criticism at some mosques across Jordan of the national charter and the new cabinet and by historically strained ties between the Ikhwan and the leftist groups who supported and joined the new cabinet.

Mr. Azaidah refused to draw comparisons between Jordan and Algeria, pointing out that Algeria's Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) of Mr. Abbas Madani was not an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood. He also dismissed assumptions that the FIS's attitude as an indication of the Islamist trend's rejection of pluralism.

Mr. Azaidah, however, blamed the Algerian government for the violent reaction of the front. "The Algerian authorities have tried to contain and limit democracy in order to prevent the Islamists from winning a majority in the people's assembly," he charged, asserting that the Algerian government has tried to achieve its goals by a system that would lead to under-representation of districts with strong Islamist constituencies.

"The same (a violent reaction by some Islamic groups) may happen anywhere if democracy is tampered with to prevent the ascendancy of Islamists," he warned.

"The Islamists are ready to accept democracy as long as the other groups accept it," he said, expressing the opinion that some groups will not like to allow the Islamists in the Arab World to reach power through the democratic process.

He refused to name these forces but said that he was confident that the Jordanian decision-makers would not allow something like this to happen.

The highly respected Ikhwan deputy strongly resented rumours and accusations by other groups that his movement's support for the National Charter was a tactic and that if ever the Brotherhood held power it would do away with political pluralism.

"Our support for the National Charter was on official decision made by the leadership," he stressed. "It is true that the real test for the movement's position towards pluralism would come if and when we form a government, but reversing our position will only undermine our credibility," Mr. Azaidah said.

In his speech following the ratification of the National Charter, His Majesty King Hussein vowed that he would not allow any party to monopolise political life in the country. Later in his letter of appointment to Mr. Masri he implicitly criticised the use of mosques to attack and slander writers and others who disagree with the strict Islamic codes of behaviour.

"We cannot be held responsible for every word that is being written or said in defence of Islam or even ourselves," Mr. Azaidah said. He agreed, however, that the Jordanian community is deeply influenced by religious rhetoric which he said should be "rationalised." Nevertheless, he implied that the responsibility should be shared by the critics of the Islamist movement who might provoke such scathing reactions by the public.

Mr. Azaidah also dismissed claims that the moves towards segregation by the former Brotherhood ministers of education and social development had

signalled the beginning of the implementation of the movement's programme to impose strict Islamic behaviour codes on the Jordanian society.

"The policies of both ministers did not reflect a formal decision by the Brotherhood; the two ministers acted on their own initiative," he said.

But while he said that he himself from a strictly personal viewpoint did not view the minister of social development's move to segregate sexes at his ministry as relevant, he defended the education minister's decision to ban fathers from attending their daughters' sport activities.

"Some young men had used these occasions to stare at the girls, especially that sometimes the (sports uniforms) exposed the girls' bodies," he argued.

The former education minister's move had then stirred a big controversy and was rejected by many parents.

"The (Jordanian) press had exaggerated the issue (as one touching upon) political freedom," Mr. Azaidah charged. Furthermore, he denied that the two ministers' policies indicated that the Brotherhood would force women to wear scarves or the hijab if they were able to win office in Jordan.

"We shall not force women to do anything. The only limitations we shall seek are these within the limits of acceptable behaviour in the world. But we shall not impose the hijab on Jordanian women," he said.

## King

(Continued from page 1)

moves. What we need is a process, a process that involves everybody. It is not a question of myself, or the member of any country, sort of to be able to create a real process. The problem is far more serious than that: It is a problem that involves Palestinians, Israelis, Syrians, Lebanese, Egyptians...

## Algeria

(Continued from page 1)

violence if the authorities did not announce dates for general and presidential elections within 20 days.

The "Organisation for Struggle Against Tyrants in Algeria" said it would hijack national and foreign aircraft, kill officials, kidnap their children, bomb press centres and attack foreign interests in the country.

The firing overnight was some of the heaviest in the latest round of clashes between the security forces and fundamentalists demanding an Islamic state and changes in the election laws. "Trucks bullets hit the sky a dull red around Belmont and May 1st Square, both strongholds of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)."

The first round of violence began last month when the FIS staged a political strike in protest at the rules for general elections which should have taken place on June 27.

President Chadli Benjedid called in the army on June 5, declared a state of siege and postponed the elections.

The second round began when the FIS ordered its followers to defy the curfew and demanded the army withdraw from the streets.

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## Weekly F.X. Market Summary (June 24 - June 28, 1991)

After dropping substantially Monday, the dollar traded within narrow ranges through most of last week's trading sessions. It rallied at the end of the week, however, to end above its closing levels at the end of the previous week against most major currencies.

The dollar rallied briefly in the Far East and early European trading Monday after the G-7 meeting on Sunday did not offer traders anything concrete to stop the dollar's recent surge. The G-7 communiqué at the end of the meeting simply reaffirmed the participants' commitment to cooperate closely, taking into account the need for orderly markets, if necessary through appropriate measures, action in Exchange Markets. But failure to breach resistance at 1.82 marks caused a wave of profit taking in New York, where the dollar closed at its lowest level for the week ending at (1.7920/30) marks, (138.79/80) yen and at (1.6460/70) dollars to the sterling pound.

The dollar rallied Tuesday after release of May durable goods orders in the U.S. to reveal a rise of (3.8%), as opposed to market expectations of a (1.5%) rise. The dollar's rise was capped, however, after remarks by U.S. Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford triggered fears of concerted central bank intervention. Mr. Mulford was reported as saying that "... the U.S. is wary of the further appreciation of its currency," for fear it will adversely affect U.S. trade competitiveness.

The dollar fell further Wednesday as concern over possible intervention by G-7 central banks continued unabated. The market also awaited the results of Thursday's Bundesbank council meeting, to see if any changes in German monetary policy can be discerned, and the release of U.S. leading indicators data for May on Friday, which were expected to show a rise of (0.6%).

The dollar rallied again Thursday, however, after German Finance Minister Theo Waigel was quoted as saying that he could not rule out the possibility of a withholding tax being imposed on investments in Germany. But while the dollar rose against the mark and other EMS currencies, it dropped against the yen, which continued to draw support from strong Japanese economic growth trends, and fading expectations of a discount rate cut by the Bank of Japan.

Thursday's dollar rally against EMS currencies continued Friday, despite the German finance minister's attempts to reassure worried investors. Mr. Waigel was quoted as saying Friday that "... savers and suppliers of capital can rely in future on favourable basic conditions on the German capital market." But most market players remained unconvinced, and the mark was further undermined by the escalation of the crisis in Yugoslavia, and reports of armed clashes there. Said reports gave rise to further safe haven dollar buying, which combined with the release of May leading indicators data, revealing a higher than expected rise of (0.8%), to propel the U.S. currency to close at its highest level for the week at (1.8100/10) marks and at (1.6215/25) dollars to the sterling pound. The dollar's rise did not extend to the yen, however. The Japanese currency ended the week at (137.40/50) yen to the dollar and at (75.95) yen to the mark, compared to (138.92) yen and (77.08) yen respectively, at the end of the previous week.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	21/6/1991 Close	28/6/91 Close	Percent Change
Sterling-Pound	1.6250	1.6220	- .18%
Deutsche Mark	1.8025	1.8105	-.44%
Swiss Franc	1.5475	1.5525	-.32%
French Franc	6.7190	6.7360	-.28%
Japanese Yen	138.95	137.45	+ 1.0%

USD per YTC

Euro-Currency Interest Rates

Currency	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	6-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.81	5.87	6.81
Sterling Pound	11.25	10.56	11.56	10.95
Deutsche Mark	8.66	9.00	8.87	9.25
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.68	7.93	7.66
French Franc	9.62	9.43	9.62	9.62
Japanese Yen	7.75	7.37	7.93	7.53

Interbank bid rates for major currencies (excluding Yen). Bidder: 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Buy	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.687	.689
Sterling Pound	1.1128	1.1164
Deutsche Mark	.3797	.3816
Swiss Franc	.4419	.4441
French Franc	.1118	.1124
Japanese Yen	.4993	.5018
Dutch Guilder	.3366	.3383
Swedish Krona	.1050	.1055
Italian Lira	.0510	.0513
Belgian Franc	.01843	.01852

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## New Yorkers live in fear as city budget cuts loom

NEW YORK (R) — Priests are robbed in their churches, a woman is murdered with a butcher's knife while walking her dog and homeless beggars attack people who refuse to give them money.

Add record summer temperatures and severe budget cuts that take effect Monday and you have a city in crisis.

The staggering rise in violent crime, the growing army of homeless, and recession troubles which could cut many city services to the bone, make many New Yorkers feel they are prey on the streets or prisoners in their apartments.

The situation is so bad they can't imagine it getting worse.

City agencies, the city council and Mayor David Dinkins say cuts needed to close a \$3.5 billion gap in the city's \$29 billion budget mean much harder times ahead.

The mayor outlined \$1.5 billion across-the-board cuts except for criminal justice. One proposal, to turn off a quarter of the street lights, seems odd in a crime wave.

Official statistics show that for the third consecutive year, New York's murder rate soared to a record in 1990. For the second

year in a row the city was the robbery capital of the country with 274 muggings a day.

Budget cuts could slash medical and dental clinics, hospital pharmacies, drug and AIDS programmes and a host of other services for poor and low-income New Yorkers.

Mr. Dinkins and the city council have been wrangling over how much of the budget gap will be closed by service cuts and how much with an increased real estate tax.

He has said further service cuts could not be tolerated. The first round of layoffs, more than 10,000 municipal employees, went into effect Friday.

The mayor has repeatedly stressed that he will not allow the police department to be cut and has started a programme called "safe city safe streets," which involves taking officers from desk jobs and patrol cars to walk a regular beat.

This is small comfort to many New Yorkers, who believe the police are powerless in the face of the overwhelming numbers of criminals and homeless squatters.

Muggings, assaults and shootings have come to be regarded as

a normal part of city life — as long as they are confined to poor neighbourhoods and housing projects.

But in recent weeks some shockingly vicious crimes have occurred in Manhattan's affluent residential and business neighbourhoods — and in broad daylight.

In the past month, a woman was killed with a butcher knife as she walked her dogs, another was slashed by a beggar on a street in central Manhattan for refusing him money, and a flower vendor was fatally punched in the face at 7.30 a.m.

On Wednesday, two priests were robbed after being followed into the rectory of their church in Harlem at about 9 p.m. A week before, \$75,000 was stolen from the safe of a church that is known for feeding the homeless.

Private citizens are trying to find ways to defend themselves. More people, not just the elderly, stay home at night and say they carry some kind of weapon on the streets.

Some communities have formed their own civilian patrols, while others have private security guards.

## 'Unemployment officially comes to Soviet Union'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Monday begins doling out unemployment benefit to millions of people, burying for good the 60-year-old state maxim that he who does not work, does not eat.

As the country tries desperately to transform itself into a free enterprise economy, the labour market is dwindling fast. Antiquated state factories are being forced to close while newer enterprises are shutting down because of high government taxes.

Chaos throughout the once strictly centralised economy brought a 10 per cent fall in overall production last year.

"The veil of secrecy has fallen," Mr. Igor Zaslavsky, head of the Moscow Labour Exchange, said in an interview. "Unemployment has officially come to the Soviet Union."

No official statistics have been published on the current number of jobless. But Soviet economists quoted in the press say 10 to 12 million people, or eight per cent of the labour force, are expected to be out of work by the end of the year.

In Moscow, about 300,000 people will be unemployed this year, according to Mr. Zaslavsky.

Unemployment benefits total-

ling five billion roubles this year will be distributed, of which 10 per cent will be funded by the central government and 90 per cent by the republics. Businesses are being taxed one per cent of profits to help pay for the unemployment fund.

In the Russian Federation, those made redundant will receive as much as 45 to 75 per cent of their salaries for the first three months, according to a law passed by the republic's parliament. The average monthly salary is 300-400 roubles (\$180-\$210 at the artificial commercial exchange rate).

A massive retraining process under way across the country since 1988 is expected to employ some 2.5 million people.

But unlike in Western economies, a great majority of unemployed in the Soviet Union are white-collar workers displaced from academies and universities due to government cuts in the sciences and arts, economists said.

Factory workers who lost their jobs because production is becoming more efficient are expected to be retrained more easily than white-collar workers learn-

ing new skills.

For 73 years following the Bolshevik revolution, the Kremlin boasted that full employment was one of the great virtues of Marxism-Leninism. The Communist Party newspaper Pravda wrote 13 years after the revolution that unemployment had ended for good.

For decades it was a central theme of Soviet propaganda that Western capitalism brought unemployment and Soviet socialism "the right to a job."

It was considered virtually a crime not to have a job. Poet Joseph Brodsky, who later won the Nobel prize, was imprisoned for "parasitism" when a court refused to recognise his work as a translator as legitimate labour.

But the principle of "full employment" has amounted to too many workers for too few tasks.

The typical Soviet worker only spends two to three hours a day actually working.

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## Recession is over in Canada U.N. fears recession will reverse gain made by women

OTTAWA (R) — Canada's year-long recession, which withered profits, swelled the ranks of the unemployed and caused record bankruptcies, was declared over by economists following a report that the economy rebounded strongly in April.

The larger-than-expected 0.9 per cent rise in gross domestic product, the biggest monthly increase in three years, was broadly based in goods and services industries, Statistics Canada said. The rise followed flat growth in March.

"The recovery is definitely here," said Mr. Mike Manford, chief economist at Scotiabank Inc. "The recession is over."

Exports, mainly to the economically recovering United States, are expected to fuel Canada's rebound for a while.

Scotiabank forecasts the economy will grow by between 3.5 per cent and 4.0 per cent over the next 12 months. In the first quarter of this year, the economy shrank by 4.6 per cent on an annualised basis.

Canada sank into recession in April 1990 after interest rates, about five percentage points higher than in the United States, were raised to tame inflation but quashed consumer and business spending.

## Top Japanese banker sees favourable world economy

TOKYO (R) — Japan's top banker has voiced optimism about prospects for both the U.S. and Japanese economies and said there was little chance of the present world slowdown turning into a recession.

Bank of Japan (BOJ) Governor Yasushi Mieno said Japan saw the stagnant U.S. economy heading for a steady recovery.

He told the annual meeting of the Japan Bankers' Federation that Japan's economic activity was still at a very high level and there was little fear it would go into a major decline.

Odds were slight that the world economic slowdown would shift into recession, he added.

Mr. Mieno said that because economic differences were now widening, each country should deal with its problems in a way that enabled it to achieve sustained, non-inflationary growth.

"That way ... we can live up to the spirit of international policy coordination," he noted.

On the domestic front, the BOJ chief said that, although there had been some signs lately of prices stabilising, upward pressures were still strong.

"Given the yen's recent weakness, we find it necessary to keep a careful watch on price trends," he added.

Mr. Mieno said he saw some slowdown in rises in land and other asset prices.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Many benefits won by women in employment, education and health care since 1970 could be reversed in the 1990s because of economic recession, said a U.N. report.

The 120-page report — "The World's Women 1970-1990" — said women are the first to suffer when jobs are cut.

All countries in the world practice some form of discrimination against women which prevents them from achieving their full potential, it said.

"Although there have been some improvements for women over the past 20 years, the majority still lag far behind men in power, wealth and opportunity," U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an introduction.

The report is the first attempt to merge global statistics on women analysed by several U.N. agencies dealing with economic and social affairs, children, population and women in poor nations.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, deterioration of living standards threaten significant gains made in health by women in urban areas, it said.

In Africa and southern Asia, population growth and deteriorating economies are undermining even the most modest gains in health and female education.

In contrast, women have gained in health and education in North Africa and the Middle East, but they have suffered severe discrimination at the workplace and in pay, power, and responsibility — even though women constitute at least 41 per cent of the work force worldwide.

The average pay gap in non-agricultural sectors is between 30 and 40 per cent with no relief in sight, the study said. And segregation by sex is everywhere, with women in separate, lower-paid occupations.

Although our monetary policy is not designed to curb asset inflation alone, we will manage our policy carefully so no rekindling of inflation in asset prices will occur," he pointed out.

The governor said previous rises in the discount rate had had the desired effects, and the Japanese economy was now in the process of gradual slowdown.

"The economy is in the phase of balanced, stable growth that will lead to a soft landing, and this is favourable to help ensure sustained economic growth," he said.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto told the assembled bankers Japan would continue to manage its fiscal and financial policies flexibly to maintain sustainable economic growth led by domestic demand without inflation.

Top government planner, Mr.

Michio Ochi, also stressed the importance for growth of strong domestic demand, mainly through personal consumption and corporate capital spending.

The Economic Planning Agency director-general said Japan maintained its official goal of 3.8 per cent growth in gross national product, the total value of the country's output of goods and services, for the fiscal year ending next March 31.

To achieve this target, he said, the agency would monitor movements in crude oil prices, exchange rates, the labour situation and conditions in financial markets.

Mr. Ochi said the world economy was expected to rebound in the second half of calendar 1991.

Many European bankers had voiced the opinion that Japanese expansion was essential for world recovery, he said.

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## Tatars elect Mejlis to seek return to Crimea

**SIMFEROPOL, Soviet Union (R)** — Crimean Tatar delegates set up a new governing body Sunday to lead their struggle to recover the homeland they lost through mass deportation in 1944.

Some 250 delegates at a Tatar congress began selecting 31 members of a new executive body, or Mejlis, which will have the authority to speak and act on behalf of the half million-odd Crimean Tatars here and around the Soviet Union.

"Comrade delegates, this is the most important part of our work, we must not fail," Serger Omerov, head of the five-day meeting's organising committee, declared.

The congress, or Kurultai, Friday declared Tatar sovereignty over the Black Sea peninsula, from which 180,000 Tatars were deported for allegedly collaborating during the Nazi wartime occupation.

Some 150,000 Tatars have returned since 1987, when the Kremlin acknowledged that the deportation had been illegal.

But the Tatars say another 350,000 are still living in other parts of the Soviet Union and want Moscow to help them move back to their former homeland.

Delegates were also due to debate a resolution strongly criticising the republican government of the Ukraine, which has jurisdiction over Crimea. It said the Ukrainian State Commission on

the Crimean Tatars was working too slowly.

The Tatars want a separate Ukrainian government committee on deported peoples to be given higher status, with a republican first deputy prime minister at its head.

The congress wants the Mejlis, whose size was reduced to 31 members from the 41 initially proposed, to have a say in the membership and running of this committee.

The Ukrainian parliament voted in February, after a referendum of the now mainly Russian and Ukrainian population, to set up an "autonomous" region in the Crimea. The Tatars are angry that they were not consulted about this.

Returning Tatars have begun building houses on land outside the towns and cities. This has led to clashes with Russians and Ukrainians who worry about unemployment and housing shortages.

The Mejlis, which has no Soviet official status, will campaign for access to building materials at subsidised prices and government credit for returnees.

Meanwhile the Soviet Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan Saturday lifted a state of emergency imposed last year when at least 18 people were killed in an upsurge of political unrest.

"The decision of the (Tajik) parliament is the result of the stabilisation of the social and political situation in the republic," the official Soviet News Agency (TASS) said.

Under the state of emergency, all meetings and demonstrations had been banned.

In a separate development, the Soviet Interior Minister has reprimanded "black beret" special forces for wildcat operations in the separatist Baltic republic of Lithuania. TASS reported Saturday.

Commanders of the anti-riot police, also known as the Omon, were summoned to Moscow Friday, warned about excessive behaviour and ordered to coordinate their actions with local law enforcement agencies.

Heavily-armed Omon troops seized Lithuania's central telephone exchange Wednesday, cutting the republic off from the rest of the world for two hours.

"Senior executives of the ministry raised the problem of strict observance of the law in Omon activities and prevention of excesses against the republic's population and the local authorities," TASS said.

"Omon commanders were seriously warned about the need for coordinating their anti-riot actions and assuring law and order with the republican Interior Ministry and the public prosecutor."

## ANC convention marks fateful week for S. Africa

**DURBAN, South Africa (R)** — One of the most important chapters in South African political history begins in this eastern port city when the African National Congress (ANC) holds its first above-ground convention in 30 years this week.

The future of negotiations for a peaceful end to white minority rule and creation of a non-racial democracy will to a large extent hang on the July 2-6 meeting of Nelson Mandela's party, the oldest black nationalist organisation in Africa.

Two thousand delegates representing 500,000 members will vote for leaders and debate key policies such as their approach to negotiations with the white government, world economic sanctions, international sporting contacts and possible electoral alliances.

The government of President F.W. de Klerk insists it is impatient for a new constitution which will give blacks the vote, and wants the ANC to resume suspended "talks about talks."

Political analysts say the convention is crucial because De Klerk's National Party and the ANC must get constitutional talks going this year with full mandates from their supporters or risk conceding the field to black and white extremists.

Several say De Klerk has already lost considerable white support for his reforms as black violence and crime soar with the easing of apartheid restraints.

The ANC for its part is torn between moderates who see negotiation as the only way forward and militants who deeply distrust the white administration and fear talks are a trap.

An ageing national executive, led by veterans such as President Oliver Tambo, 73, Vice President Mandela, 72, and internal affairs head Walter Sisulu, 78, is often seen by militants to be outwitted by the whites.

Mandela is widely revered and is virtually certain to be elected president this week to replace ailing Tambo. Sisulu will probably be voted in as vice president, despite wishing to retire, because moderates and hardliners cannot agree on a younger heir-apparent.

The ANC, founded in 1912, last held a national convention inside South Africa in 1959, also in Durban, before being banned and driven underground.

It was legalised with other black opposition groups last year to help start black-white negotiations on a democratic constitution. But exploratory talks have been stuck in a quagmire of violence and distrust.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in recent months in black faction fighting, mainly between supporters of the ANC and the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The ANC accuses the government of ganging up against it with Inkatha in order to win the first democratic election at the head of an anti-ANC front of white and black conservatives.

The government and Inkatha, on the other hand, say the ANC has failed to transform itself from an underground guerrilla movement into a peace-time political party and cannot control its violence-prone youth.

The organisation often appears to be floundering in De Klerk's slipstream. In little more than a year he has demolished the pillars of apartheid and persuaded most nations to begin dismantling sanctions while the ANC has seemed confused and disorganised, fighting yesterday's wars.

"There is no question of transfer of power after this worst ever rigging in the elections. These results are not acceptable to us," he told Pakistan's independent English-language newspaper, The Nation.

The Azad Kashmir legislature was the only provincial assembly to survive after Mr. Bhutto's administration was dismissed on Aug. 6 on charges of corruption and political ineptitude.

The semi-autonomous nature of Azad Kashmir made it constitutionally impossible for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to dissolve the assembly.

The Azad Kashmir has its own constitution and the government has the power to set any policy except in defence, foreign exchange and foreign policy, which are controlled by Pakistan.

In October, three months after her dismissal, Ms. Bhutto and her party were routed in national and provincial elections. She also charged widespread fraud and ballot box stuffing, allegations that were dismissed by most independent observers.

## Britain's Conservatives narrow Labour poll lead

**LONDON (R)** — Britain's ruling Conservative Party, which must call a general election within a year, is closing a popularity gap with the Labour Party opposition, according to the latest two opinion polls.

A Mori poll for the Sunday Times newspaper said Prime Minister John Major's party had narrowed a six-point lead over the Labour Party last month to only two points.

It said Labour had 41 per cent of the vote to 39 per cent for the Conservatives and 15 per cent for the centrist Liberal Democrats.

A Nop survey for the Mail On

Sunday gave Labour 42 per cent and the Conservatives 41 per cent, compared to an eight-point Labour lead in the last Nop poll.

The Conservatives surged in popularity when Major replaced Margaret Thatcher as prime minister last year but fell behind under the pressure of economic recession. Some opinion polls had put Labour ahead by as much as 10 percentage points.

The two latest surveys confounded predictions that renewed discord among the Conservatives over closer European integration could further sap their chances of reelection.

## Kashmiri militants: Swedish hostage seriously wounded

**SRINAGAR, India (R)** — Kashmiri militants who kidnapped two Swedish engineers said Sunday that Indian security forces had shot and seriously wounded one of the hostages in a raid.

The Muslim Janbaz (Crusaders) Force (MJF) said Jan-Ole Loman, 37, "received two bullets in his leg... (he) is being treated but since he has lost so much blood his condition is critical."

The MJF seized Loman and Johan Jansson, 35, both working on a hydro-electric project, on March 31. It demanded an international inquiry into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Kashmir police chief J.N. Saksena refuted the MJF's Urdu-language statement, which alleged that Loman was shot by security forces in an unsuccessful raid on a militant hideout in Rawalpindi, just outside the state's summer capital Srinagar.

"Maybe there was some cross-fire there, but that's quite different from a shootout and I have no knowledge of any shootout or raid," Saksena said.

The MJF statement said: "We have shifted both the engineers to a different hideout." It did not explain how the militants escaped the security forces who it said had surrounded the Rawalpindi hideout late Saturday night.

"Security forces opened fire injuring Jan-Ole Loman and three members of the Muslim

Janbaz Force. The MJF members... risked their lives to save the two engineers. This shows the security forces are not interested in their safe return," it said.

"(Loman's) condition is critical so we want to warn the international organisations that if anything happens to Jan-Ole Loman then Indian authorities will be responsible."

The statement reiterated the MJF's demand for Amnesty International and the United Nations to send a team to Kashmir to investigate charges that security forces have set fire to homes, raped women and killed innocent civilians.

India, which says some excesses may have occurred but dismisses most allegations as propaganda, does not permit international teams to investigate human rights complaints, saying its own legal system is adequate to deal with such charges.

The United Nations and Amnesty International condemned the kidnapping.

Meanwhile Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) militants were still holding an Israeli who fought his way out of a kidnapping attempt by another group Thursday only to run into the JKLF.

Yair Yitzhaki, 21, and five other Israeli tourists seized their abductors' guns. One Israeli and at least one militant died in a gunfight. Four Israelis, three of them wounded, escaped.

## 2 dead in Northern Ireland violence

**BELFAST (AP)** — Two killings in Northern Ireland were being investigated Sunday, including the death of a man who was shot at home while talking with police officers.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) also said it was investigating the killing of a man who was shot in the head with his hands tied behind his back. The body, which was not identified, was found in West Belfast late Saturday night.

Also, a police officer was slightly wounded when an explosive device was thrown at his patrol car early Sunday in Omagh, 55 miles (90 kilometres) east of Belfast, the constabulary said.

Cecil McKnight was speaking with two RUC detectives in his living room in Londonderry when at least three shots were fired through a front window, killing him, the RUC said.

The plainclothes officers chased two suspects, but the men escaped, police said. Londonderry is 65 miles (105 kilometres) northeast of Belfast.

Friends of McKnight told the Press Association, the British news agency, that he was a Protestant. They believed he was shot dead by the Irish Republican Army in retaliation for last month's paramilitary killing of a Sinn Fein lawyer.

McKnight was a member of the Ulster Democratic Party, a Protestant pressure group with close links to the loyalist paramilitary Ulster Defence Association, the news agency reported.

Friends said he had been warned two weeks ago that the IRA might try to kill him.

"This was a sectarian murder. He (McKnight) was shot dead because he was a Protestant," Gregory Campbell, a local lawyer, said. "Two weeks ago, both of us were told by the police that we were under possible threat from the IRA."

Sinn Fein lawyer Eddie Fullerton was shot last Wednesday when gunmen smashed their way into his home.

## Slovenian capital in pre-war jitters; border towns deserted

**LIJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP)** — As Yugoslav army jets screamed overhead, this capital city of rebellious Slovenia remained barricaded and ready for war despite a day-old truce.

Ljubljana was in its third day of a self-imposed siege. Citizens were subject to regular identification checks, sometimes from plainclothes policemen.

Buses were commandeered for extra barricades that would form the city's first line of defence against any army tanks.

Police vans, sirens wailing and lights flashing, raced down the main Titova Street, named for Yugoslavia's late Communist leader Josip Broz Tito.

"Life is no longer normal," said Alenka Ogriin, an unemployed tour guide.

The barricades, a key element of Slovenia's civil defence plan, were first erected early Thursday as army tanks rolled out of their bases towards the city.

Churning up tarmac on normally transit country roads, the tanks skirted Ljubljana and headed for the airport. That was the beginning of a conflict that Slovene officials say has claimed dozens of lives.

The army led by a Communist and Serb-dominated officer corps but commanded also by Slovene generals, also used its air force against Slovene targets.

But by Saturday, it had not achieved its announced aim of



retaking Slovenia's 27 international border posts.

More federal tanks moved towards Slovenia Saturday.

At Sredisce Ob Dravi, 11 tanks grouped on the Slovene side of the republic's border with Croatia.

After breaking through a barricade of railroad wagons and destroying a makeshift Slovene border post, soldiers caught some sleep in sunny compounds while their tanks, guns pointed towards Slovenia, idled nearby.

"I'm afraid there's no chance for peace," said one villager, identifying himself only as Ivo.

"We're only part independent because this is occupation,"

Sredisce, like many villages along the Croatian border, looked like a ghost town.

A handful of women huddled at the sole grocery store. Men talked politics in a dingy bar. Most doors were closed with no signs of life.

Major roads to the village and on to Croatian Cakovec, the nearest Yugoslav army base, have been blocked for days by the Slovenes.

Defiant locals and makeshift signs guided strangers along winding forest tracks and over rocky hill passes that have replaced Slovenia's highways as thoroughfares from the Alps to the Adriatic.

Soldiers of the Territorial Defence, which put up a stubborn fight against the army, manned numerous roadblocks, checking travellers' documents and sometimes fingering triggers on their automatic weapons.

Trapped on Europe's main road linking Central Europe to the Bosphorus were hundreds of trucks.

At least three Bulgarian and Turkish trucks died in an air raid Friday near the Sentij border post with Austria.

"I can't sleep. Planes might come and shoot us, boom, boom," complained one Bosnian driver, Misha Jovanovic, marooned between Ptuj and Maribor in northeastern Slovenia.

## Filipino volcano triggers biggest evacuation ever

**MANILA (R)** — The explosion of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines forced the biggest evacuation of people from an erupting volcano in history, a U.N. expert said Sunday.

"It's the biggest number of people that has ever been evacuated historically from a volcano," visiting United Nations volcanologist John Tomblin said.

A quarter of a million people have been forced to leave their homes since Pinatubo, dormant for 600 years, began erupting 22 days ago.

Other large evacuations include the 72,000 people evacuated during a volcanic eruption in the Caribbean in 1976 and 60,000 villagers moved from near a volcano in Indonesia in 1982, Tomblin said in a television interview.

Corazon Aquino's government is seeking assistance.

Pinatubo has unleashed mudflows up to five metres thick down its flanks since it first erupted on June 9, Philippine scientists said Sunday.

Traveling at speeds of up to six metres per second, the mudslides have swept away dykes and bridges, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology said in a report after a survey of mudflow deposits on Pinatubo's slopes Saturday.

The report did not mention casualties from the mudflows.

The mudslides occurred between June 12 and 15 and cascaded down five major river channels, reaching as far as Concepcion in Tarlac province, 50 kilometres northeast of the volcano, the report said.

Chief government volcanologist Ramonondo Punongbayan has warned of bigger mudflows from the millions of tonnes of volcanic ash and debris spewed out by

Pinatubo.

Heavy rains could loosen the deposits on the volcano's slopes, volcanologists said.

The eruption has killed at least 343 people, wrecked thousands of homes in 43 towns and crippled Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Station, the largest U.S. military bases in Asia.

Looters have ransacked the homes of U.S. servicemen outside Clark in Angeles City, abandoned after the evacuation of 15,000 airmen and dependants, the Daily Globe newspaper said Sunday.

## Man gets 10 years for robbing sister's savings

**STILLWATER, Oklahoma (AP)** — A man who robbed his sister at knife-point of her family's piggy bank got a 10-year prison sentence. Harrison Eugene Sweet, 31, pleaded guilty and was sentenced. He faced up to life in prison because of 11 previous felony convictions. "It was fair punishment for what he had done," prosecutor Frank Muret said. Sweet went to the apartment of his grown sister, Susan J. Monreal, on Feb. 5, authorities said. He held a kitchen knife to her while his girlfriend carried the 10-pound (5-kilogramme) piggy bank away, they said. The piggy bank, which contained about \$400, was not recovered. "My brother told me he was going to cut my throat if I didn't tell him where that piggy bank was... It was all we had," Monreal testified at Sweet's preliminary hearing. She is married with three children. Sweet's girlfriend, Donna Louise Shinnault, 27, was sentenced to three years in prison for her role in the robbery.

**Judge found guilty of bribery**

**NEW ORLEANS (R)** — A federal judge was found guilty Saturday of taking money to reduce a drug smuggler's sentence, the first time a U.S. district judge was ever been convicted of bribery. Judge Robert Collins, 60, and John Ross, 59, a business associate, face up to 25 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines. A Justice Department official said it was the first bribery conviction of a federal judge. Collins was also convicted of conspiracy and obstruction of justice. The federal court jury of three blacks and nine whites found that Collins, who is black, and Ross schemed to accept money in return for reducing the sentence of Gary Young, a convicted drug smuggler. Black leaders have charged that the case is part of a decision by the federal government to selectively prosecute black officials.

## Abortion rising in Soviet Union

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Soviets have 137 abortions for every 100 live births, Komsomolskaya Pravda has reported. "In connection with panic because of price increases, economic decline and the worsening of living standards in the country, the number of abortions has increased to monstrous proportions," the newspaper said. More than one in ten Soviet women between the age of 15-49 has an abortion every year, it said. As a result, the number of babies born prematurely has increased 10 per cent. The number of abortions performed annually has risen by 200,000, compared to a 600,000 decrease in the number of pregnancies resulting in births, the paper reported. Last year, the birth rate in the capital of one Soviet republic dropped 13 per cent and seven maternity hospitals were closed, the paper said. It did not specify which city. Services at state-run health facilities are nearly free, but conditions are so bad that women "run away by climbing out of windows" rather than stick out the required 2-3 day wait after an abortion has been performed, the paper said. "There is no medicine, no equipment, no qualified or conscientious personnel (in the country)," the paper reported. "As a result, the last of the specialists are already sitting on their suitcases," as ten years ago, most abortions were performed without anaesthesia, the paper said. The paper said the number of abortions performed in privately-run clinics had increased.

## Australian who kept 184 animals jailed

**SYDNEY (R)** — An Australian who had 130 cats, 50 birds, two dogs and two sheep in his three-bedroom home was jailed for four months for maltreatment by a Sydney court. Animal welfare inspectors said 63 cats had to be destroyed and the remainder, ulcers, ear mites and cat flu. Cat breeder Tudor Munday, 70, who lives in Sydney's western suburbs, was charged with failing to provide veterinary treatment for the animals, a Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) spokesman said. RSPCA inspectors also found a large steel bucket full of decomposing kittens and birds when they called on Munday in January after a complaint from a neighbour. The court said Munday would not be allowed to own animals again.

## Pakistani politician accuses generals of selling arms

**ISLAMABAD (R)** — A leftist Pakistani politician accused army generals Sunday of selling arms meant for Afghan guerrillas on the open market.

In an interview published in the independent Frontier Post newspaper, Khan Abdul Wali Khan said some of the deadliest weapons were falling into the hands of "terrorists."

Afghan guerrillas were selling a major portion of the arms channelled to them from the United States through Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), said Khan who heads the Awami National Party (ANP).

"Even the Stinger missiles are being sold like potatoes," he said. "I found that the deadliest weapons had slipped from the ISI ammunition dump and were sold by army generals on the open market."

The ISI's Ojri dump in Rawalpindi, which stockpiled weapons destined for the Afghan Mujahideen guerrillas, exploded in 1988 killing about 100 people.

Khan, whose Pushtun-based party opposes Pakistani support for Afghan guerrillas trying to topple the government in Kabul, said he saw a multi-barrel rocket launcher at the home of a tribal leader.

Already the blood feuds of the tribal areas are fought out with assault rifles, rocket launchers and mortars and many tribal leaders defend the compounds of their homes with anti-aircraft guns.

Last week, four people were killed in the town of Miranshah when two families used rockets, guns and grenades to settle a dispute over a chicken.

## Bhutto's party routed in Kashmir elections

**MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan (AP)** — Islamic conservatives routed former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party in a legislative election in Pakistan-held Kashmir, results showed Sunday.

According to official election results, the Muslim Conference swept 26 of the 40 seats in the legislature of Azad (Free) Kashmir, a semi-autonomous state in the rugged Himalayas.

The Conference was heavily supported by the Islamic Democratic Alliance, a conservative nine-party coalition that overwhelmingly defeated Ms. Bhutto's left-leaning Pakistan People's Party in general elections eight months ago.

Ms. Bhutto's party won only two seats in Saturday's balloting, while independents and smaller parties got three seats.

Ballots from several remote constituencies were still being counted more than 18 hours after the polls closed. Assistant Election Commissioner Malik Abdul Rehman said final results may not be known for several days.

Despite the presence of 13,000 police and paramilitary troops, violent clashes erupted during the polling, leaving at least 14 people dead and scores more injured, the state-run Pakistan Times newspaper said Sunday.

A 30-minute shooting spree by Indian troops trying to crush violent secessionist uprising in Indian-held Kashmir also forced elections officials to suspend voting for an hour at three polling stations near the border, according to the government-owned Associated Press of Pakistan (APP).

The election was seen as a popularity test for Ms. Bhutto's party, which had governed with a fragile coalition since May 1990.

The former prime minister of the state, Mumtaz Rathore, accused opponents of massive election fraud.

"There is no question of transfer of power after this worst ever rigging in the elections. These results are not acceptable to us," he told Pakistan's independent English-language newspaper, The Nation.

The Azad Kashmir legislature was the only provincial assembly to survive after Mr. Bhutto's administration was dismissed on Aug. 6 on charges of corruption and political ineptitude.

The semi-autonomous nature of Azad Kashmir made it constitutionally impossible for President Ghulam Ishaq Khan to dissolve the assembly.

The Azad Kashmir has its own constitution and the government has the power to set any policy except in defence, foreign exchange and foreign policy, which are controlled by Pakistan.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Roh begins U.S. visit

**PALO ALTO, California (R)** — South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo called for removing the last vestiges of the cold war from the Asian-Pacific region Saturday as he began an eight-day visit to the United States and Canada. Speaking at Stanford University shortly after arriving from Seoul, Roh proposed what he said was a broad plan of action to ensure peace and prosperity in Asia. "First, we must build a solid foundation for international stability across the Asian-Pacific region by removing the last vestiges of the cold war," Roh said. Roh, who will discuss security arrangements for the divided Korean peninsula when he meets President George Bush in Washington Tuesday, said the United States must continue its leading role in the region. "History demonstrates that whenever the role of United States was reduced in this region, the resulting vacuum was quickly filled by the forces of instability with disastrous consequences," he said.

### Colombian assembly scraps extradition

**BOGOTA (R)** — An assembly reforming Colombia's constitution has voted definitively to outlaw extradition of Colombian citizens, removing a legal weapon feared by drug traffickers. Forty-five of the Constituent Assembly's 73 members voted in favour of a proposal barring extradition of Colombians, local radio said. "The extradition of Colombians by birth is prohibited," the approved article read. The vote ratified a decision taken in a vote on June 19 and means extradition of Colombians will be outlawed in the new constitution which takes effect from July 5. The assembly's decision removes a tool used to send at least 49 Colombians suspected drug traffickers to the United States for trial since 1984. Colombia's powerful cocaine traffickers, who fear the severe sentences handed down by U.S. courts, fought a bloody war on the state from August 1989 partly to get extradition scrapped.

### Astronaut may fly on Soviet station

**WASHINGTON (R)** — U.S. and Soviet officials have resumed high-level talks on the possibility of American astronauts flying for months aboard the Soviet space station Mir, the Washington Post said Sunday. "There's been a lot of discussion... but no decisions have been made," the newspaper quoted unidentified administration source as saying. Officials said if Americans were able to remain aboard Mir for three to four months, they could collect data on how humans adapt to weightlessness and carry out other scientific experiments. If U.S. President George Bush decides to propose such a venture, it could be discussed with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev at a planned meeting this year, possibly next month, in the Soviet Union, the Post said. Soviet cosmonauts have flown missions of up to a year aboard Mir, compared with the U.S. record of 84 days in orbit, the Post said.

### Ex-contras attack town, kidnap police

**MANAGUA (R)** — About 40 re-armed contra rebels have attacked a town in northern Nicaragua where they kidnapped three policemen, robbed a bank and a local store, police said. The rebels, known as re-contras, attacked the town of Pantasma, about 200 kilometres north of Managua, Saturday morning a police spokeswoman in the provincial capital of Jinotega said. "The reports we have is that 10 re-contras attacked Pantasma this morning, robbed a bank and a cooperative farmers' store," spokeswoman Ivania Zeledon said. After remaining three hours in the town the re-armed contras kidnapped three policemen and fled into the nearby hills, Zeledon said.